

*John H. Davis*

# THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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## Ecclesiastical Affairs.

### ASCENDANCY.

"Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambition;  
By that sin fell the angels; how can man, then,  
The image of his Maker, hope to win by't?  
Love thyself last!"

LUST of power, how natural is it to us all! How strange, and yet how certain a perversion is it of one of the noblest and most glorious instincts of humanity—the desire to rise higher and yet higher in the scale of being! Rightly cultured and trained, of what a stately plant, of what beauteous and fragrant flowers, is here the germ! In this dark world, however—in society as it is—in an uncongenial soil, and an unpropitious clime, into what unsightly forms does it push itself up, and how intensely bitter its fruit! Earth has become one wide battle field—life, one incessant struggle with our kind. Prompt enough are we to condemn the successful ambition which compels even ourselves to bow to a stronger will than our own. But whilst we condemn, we practise—and the very judgment we pass is but the voice of that assumption of superiority, which, in all others, we deem it just to stifle. Which of us does not pant for power? Where is the man who is not scrambling to some pinnacle whence he may look down upon others, and be by them looked up to? Why, the very beggar who sweeps the crossing has his little sphere of ascendancy—the petty kingdom within which his will rules other wills—and, abject as that spirit of his may be in presence of a well-dressed passenger, there is a circle, be it ever so confined, of which he is the centre, and in which he enacts the despot. To widen that circle is the aim of his being—and whether he works or begs, bows or stands erect, the mainspring which puts in motion the wheel-work of his soul, is to get above those by whom he is immediately surrounded, and to command their homage—to be the god of which they are to be the worshipers.

And society is made up of such elements. Himself being, naturally, every man's final end—each individual taking his stand upon the spot assigned to him by Providence, and setting himself to work, with such instrumentality as he has, to rake together for his own share whatever comes within his reach—all busily engaged in the universal scramble—one cannot but admire the reach of that wisdom which presides over the clash and chaos, and by the influence of general laws, so governs the tumultuous mass, so harmonises confusion, and arranges disorder, and groups individual selfishness, as to render society a possible—aye! even a comely thing. But for the invariable action of these laws—but for their being far above the reach of disturbance by man's intermeddling—imagination would fail to conceive the scene which would present itself. Not only would all social mechanism fall to pieces—but every particle of which it is composed would be repellent of every other particle—pell-mell would be the order of the day—and the human race, preying upon itself, would quickly cease to be. The passion for ascendancy is an explosive principle, and nothing but the counteracting agency of an infinite mind, and an all-commanding power, prevents it from blowing society into atoms.

Into this mass of conflicting tendencies Christianity has introduced a new and remedial element. Your philosophic scoffers may turn up the nose at what they affect to deem the superstition of the day—but when, with all their pretensions, will they lay uncovered to human understanding any secret comparable, either in depth or in importance, with that which Christianity has unostentatiously revealed? That to humble oneself is the way to exaltation—to be the servant of all is to command all—to die is to live—to give is to receive—to love is to be loved—that true happiness consists in the flowing out of our affections upon others, rather than in the flowing in of their affections upon ourselves—that dispersion, not accumulation; self-spending, not self-seeking; placing ourselves at the disposal of others for their weal, not bringing them under our disposal for our own; is to be regarded as the main object of life—in what a startling contrast does all this stand to universally prevalent maxims and practice! How original! How profound! How true! So true, so obviously true, when once enounced, that we have never yet met with the man possessing hardihood enough to appear to question it. And the unveiling of this great moral secret—this mystery of the spiritual

world, has done much to change, not merely the external aspect, but the inward heart of society. As it comes to be practically recognised, it is astonishing how the coercive restraints once deemed absolutely necessary to bind together human beings become obsolete and useless. As if by miraculous intervention, this angel from another world touches us, and our chains drop off of themselves. Hence the progress of social and political liberty wherever true religion obtains a firm footing among a people. Hence the uniform convergence upon one centre, of Christianity, democracy, and order. The whole scheme is essentially, in its lowermost, innermost principles, subversive of the spirit of ascendancy among men, however, and in what sphere soever, developed. "One is your Master, and all ye are brethren," is the theoretical fountain out of which flows the practical stream, "Let each esteem other better than himself."

Marvelous, truly, would be the inconsistency, were Christianity, aiming at these ends, to adopt or to sanction means of which ascendancy, ecclesiastical ascendancy, constitutes one of the foremost items. But this it must do, if it maintain itself by compulsory means—if, in order to its own perpetuity, it ally itself with the state. The support, by national funds, of all religious sects, can be maintained only in countries like France, where truth is held to be a matter of no importance. The latitudinarian system, seemingly so liberal, really so intolerant, can only co-exist side by side with general scepticism. Nor has the experiment, even in a neighbouring country, been carried on to an extent sufficient to prove that the support of religion by the state can be made permanently to exclude the principle of ascendancy. In our own land that principle is, and will be, identified with the compulsory system; and so long as the state upholds institutions of religious worship, by setting apart for them public funds, a moral certainty exists that it will select one class for its especial patronage, and will exalt it, legally and socially, above all others. This it does at the present moment, and we have no guarantee that it will cease to do so.

We hold it, at all events, to be a pleasing and commendatory characteristic of any principle intended to operate powerfully upon the social body, that it gives no encouragement to the exclusive, selfish, and dominant spirit, which we have seen to be so natural to man in his best state. Surely the ordinary arrangements of Providence, or rather the relative positions of class to class, which Providence permits human pride to work out, offer temptations strong enough, and provide scope for gratification wide enough, to the ambition of mortals, without superadding, in this direction, anything fairly connected with the great solemnities of religion. There would appear to our minds to be a beautiful harmony in this respect between the voluntary principle and Christianity itself. The first gives not, no more than the last, the smallest encouragement to that love of rule, that imperiousness of temper common to man; which, in so far as it operates, strains all the bonds which hold society together, and which requires restraint of every kind rather than encouragement, to preserve it from inflicting upon communities the most devastating mischief. The voluntary principle tickles into irritability no proud aspirations after exclusive influence and power, but indirectly rebukes them. Every one knows how difficult it is to guard against the influence of an *esprit de corps*. Even in matters purely secular, class feelings and class interests speedily extinguish all the lines and landmarks of justice. But by deliberate arrangement to evoke this spirit and do it homage, to place it upon the throne and give it civil distinction and authority—in one word, to widen the range of its mischievous power, under pretence of conserving the best interests of society, strikes us as one of the most fatal mistakes into which man can fall. This is not the mistake of the voluntary principle, but of its opposite. The cry for ascendancy, which is neither more nor less than a cry for the indulgence of our pride in connexion with our religion, has never yet been raised by Christian willingness. It is the howl of the wolf; and the wonder is, how men could ever persuade themselves that it was the bleat of the sheep. Heard distinctly, it proclaims its own parentage. It comes not from heaven—therefore, most likely, it comes from somewhere "beneath the moon."

### PROJECTED ECCLESIASTICAL REFORMS.

PIETY and modesty are usually found together. Woven together they form a graceful chaplet for a statesman's brow. The one serves as a foil to the other, and each enhances the beauty of its fellow. Such are the reflections suggested to us by Sir Robert Peel's ecclesiastical reforms. They are so full of religion, so exuberant of spiritual solicitudes, they overflow so largely with genuine charity, that the country may well acknowledge, in silent but rapturous admiration, the unfeigned piety of her Majesty's First Lord of the Treasury. And then, the modesty with which his ecclesiastical measures were alluded to in the royal speech! How strikingly in contrast with the general habits of political men!

In sober earnestness, however, we would just mind the dissenters of the three kingdoms that there are modes of promoting church of England ascendancy, far less noisy and abundantly more effective than passing acts of parliament. Sir Robert Peel may confine his church extension scheme for the present within limits allowed him by church property already possessed. He may refuse to meddle with the question of church rates, and may promote plausible-looking reforms of spiritual courts. In the public eye, and in his place in parliament, he may put on the guise of rationality, and adopt the tone of moderation. Religious liberty has far less to fear from direct legislative interference than from the insidious encroachments of judge-made law, or from the specious projects of pretended benevolence. One Sir Herbert Jenner Fust, in a little dark chamber at Doctors' Commons, may do more by a single decision, such as that arrived at in the Norwich case, to undermine and sap the very foundations of religious freedom, than twenty Sir Robert Peels, with a hundred acts of parliament. We are not prepared to expect, at the present moment, that the church will succeed to any alarming extent in making laws opposed to the spirit of the age; but it may interpret laws already made so as to suit its own tyrannical purposes; and, by rendering the public familiar with its persecuting and intolerant practices, may gradually, and not slowly prepare the mind of the nation for a bold assault hereafter upon toleration itself. We look upon all these little ecclesiastical reforms, promoted by Sir Robert Peel, as calculated, each in its way, to strengthen the principle of a state-church. We see the spirit of the establishment, as evinced in her own courts, to be growingly fierce, haughty, and oppressive. We seem to see the tiger crouching down for a determined spring, and presently, when the victim comes fairly within his reach, forth he will bound at one leap upon unsuspecting simplicity, and bury his claws in the very heart of religious liberty.

What then, our readers may ask us, is to be done, and how is the danger to be averted? We reply, isolated efforts are worse than useless; and opposition to ecclesiastical oppression, if got up simply to meet the emergency of special attacks, will never be extensively successful, and will never want work to do. The points of activity in the church are now multiplying so fast that the only chance of averting the danger lies in meeting it boldly face to face. Until dissenters are prepared to make a direct, unflinching, and determined attack upon the principle of establishments, minor annoyances, like weeds on a spring day, will grow up in every corner of the land—Fusts will pronounce judgment, and Mackinnons will frame bills, and Puseyism will be blatant wherever opportunity offers. "Wheresoever the carcass is, thither the eagles will gather together."

### NORWICH CHURCH RATE CASE.

In the Arches court, on Wednesday last, Sir H. Jenner Fust gave sentence in this case (reported in a late number), which was a cause of office promoted against a parishioner of St George's Colegate, Norwich, for wilfully and contumaciously obstructing, or refusing to join or concur in, the making of a sufficient rate for the repair of the parish church. The defendant had appeared under protest to the jurisdiction of the court, on the ground that the citation did not set forth an ecclesiastical offence. The learned judge observed that it had been declared by high authority in the recent Braintree case, both in the court of Queen's Bench and in the Exchequer chamber, that the ecclesiastical court has jurisdiction in suits for repair of churches, and for enforcing rates made for that purpose. It was as little doubted that



the duty of parishioners to repair the parish church was a common law obligation, from which they could not relieve themselves, and that they might be compelled to discharge it by ecclesiastical censures. The question in this case was, whether the citation should set forth generally the nature and description of the offence imputed to the party, or specify all the circumstances. The practice of the court was, that the citation should set forth the general description of the offence sufficiently to enable the party to know what charge he had to meet. The case of "Cooper v. Wickham," upon which so much stress had been laid in the argument, was distinguished from this, inasmuch as in that case the citation, and articles too, merely charged the party with having, in his office of churchwarden, voted in favour of a resolution condemnatory of all church rates, and against a particular rate, without alleging that the church had thereby been left without the means of repair, which alone would have made that an ecclesiastical offence. Here the party was charged with wilfully and contumaciously (implying that it had been done in disobedience to a monition of the court) obstructing the making of a rate, and with refusing to join in making a "sufficient" rate for the "necessary" repairs of the church. This amounted to an ecclesiastical offence, for which the individual parishioner, by whose obstruction and refusal the duty cast by law upon the parish was left unfulfilled, might be proceeded against in this court. He, therefore, overruled the protest, and assigned the party to appear absolutely.

**CHURCH RATES IN DISTRICT PARISHES.**—The churchwardens of the district parish of Low Harrogate summoned Mr Samuel Wilkinson, Mr Joseph Bailey, Mr James Briggs, and Mr Joseph Binns, for neglecting to pay their respective proportions of the last church rate. The question was heard before a full bench of magistrates at Knaresborough, on Wednesday last, when some novel objections were advanced against church rates in district parishes, which we do not remember to have been raised at any previous discussion. Mr Walker attended to support the rate, and Mr Richardson of Leeds to oppose it. Mr Samuel Wilkinson's summons was disposed of on the ground of the evidence being imperfect. Mr Joseph Bailey's summons was fully discussed, when Mr Richardson took fifteen objections to the church rate in question. The first, second, and third objections were founded on the bad votes alleged by the opponents of the rate to have been given at the poll in support of the rate. Then followed several objections, under which Mr Richardson contended that there were various items in the estimate for the rate, which would not be made the foundation of a rate in a district parish, though several of those items might have been included in a church rate in an old parish, under the old law; such as clerk's salary, sacramental wine, surplice washing, church cleaning, &c., &c. The leading and most important objection was, that the act 58 George III., c. 45, s. 70 (under the authority of which this church rate was laid), did not authorise a rate for any purpose whatever, excepting the repairs of the district church. Another objection was, that a scrutiny had been demanded and refused. After considerable discussion the justices decided that the objections had deprived them of jurisdiction, and, therefore, they could not issue any warrant to enforce payment. The summonses against the other parties were abandoned in consequence of this decision. Consequently the churchwardens must take the matter into the ecclesiastical court if they should wish for further litigation, and there, it is supposed, the validity of the objections would be established. — *Leeds Mercury*.

**CHURCH RATES AT STAFFORDHURST, KENT.**—A scene somewhat novel in our parish was witnessed this day (Jan. 28) in the distraint of certain goods and chattels for the payment of church rates. The claim on Mr Jull for rates and expenses was £1 14s. 3d. for which two Cheshire cheeses were taken. The claim on Mr Grigaby, the dissenting minister, was 17s. 1d., for which was taken a mahogany dining table. The bench made an order for payment in both cases, and subsequently granted warrants of distress, which have lain with the high constable for several months, he not having been able to find a respectable appraiser who would undertake a church-rate seizure. Kent, it appears, failed to produce one, but a neighbouring county has furnished a man for the job, and the warrants have at last been executed. The sale took place on the 3rd inst. The first lot was put up by the churchwarden's servant, and the whole were sold at prices not greatly under their value. The auctioneer was a Mr Hobbs from Sussex. The high constable had great difficulty in finding a person who would undertake the business. Mr Jull informs us that he has not paid rates for five years. The churchwardens feared he would dispute the validity of three former rates, and struck them off, summoning him for the last two. Some verses on the subject of this affair have been circulated in the parish, of which the following are a sample:—

"Her laity number the noble and great,  
Her bishops in palaces dwelling in state,  
Her clergy are learned and live at their ease,  
Yet she comes to a poor nonconformist for cheese!"

"Her vestments are built, and her prayers are all planned,  
Her gifts are provided all over the land;  
But what use but this, yet even for these  
She will legally rob a noncon of his cheese!" — *Maidstone Gazette*.

**REFUSAL OF A CHURCH RATE.**—Thursday forenoon a vestry full adjourned vestry meeting of the parish of St. I. Joseph Without, Aldgate, took place in the common vestry room, Houndsditch, to determine upon

the best means to recover the sum due for the completion of the repairs done to the parish church, and to make a church rate for the liquidation of the same. Mr churchwarden Parker took the chair, and observed that the previous meeting was adjourned for the purpose of laying before the rate payers a statement of the alleged extra works done to the church, and which the parish was now called upon to pay. The individual, Mr Furnivall, claimed 600l. more than was stated in the contract, and for the recovery of which he has commenced an action against the late parochial officers. A very stormy and angry discussion then ensued as to the making of a rate, or resisting the sum which is claimed for the repairs; when, after some time, a resolution was passed to defend the action for the extra sum due for the repairs of the church. The meeting was then adjourned amidst much confusion and cheering, thus getting rid of a church rate of 3d. in the pound, which this parish was about to be saddled with.

**A FACT.**—An eminent bookseller, not far from Derby, in passing up the aisle of the parish church in his way to his pew a Sunday or two since, was struck with the glittering appearance of some of the books in the pews of his wealthy neighbours; this excited some curiosity in the mind of our worthy bibliopolist; there was a uniformity of elegance about the books rather unusual. After the service he mentioned the subject to one of the churchwardens; who produced one of the books in question, when it proved to be part of the recent issue of bibles by the British and Foreign Bible society. During the week following, a subscription was set on foot in the town for the purpose of purchasing coats, &c., to sell to the poor at a reduced price, and the bookseller in question was called upon by some of his benevolent friends for his mite, which he cheerfully contributed. It happened that several of the members of the committee for the management of this subscription were also members of the committee of the Auxiliary Bible society for the district. At one of the early meetings of the committee for the sale and distribution of coats, an application was made in due form by our friend the bookseller for a large quantity of the subscription coats at the reduced price; after some discussion, a deputation was appointed to wait upon the applicant on the subject, when the following colloquy, or something very like it, took place: *Deputation:* We wait on you, sir, in consequence of an application made in your name to the committee appointed to superintend the distribution of coats to the poor, to be supplied with a considerable quantity at the reduced price, at which it has been agreed to sell coats only to the poor, on the recommendation of subscribers—we think there must be some mistake. *Bookseller:* No mistake, gentlemen, I assure you—none whatever. I was perfectly aware of the nature and objects of the subscription when I gave my money; both you gentlemen are, I believe, members of the committee of the Auxiliary Bible society of this town, and you must be aware that the conditions on which I and others subscribe to that society are precisely the same as those on which money has been raised for coats; while you make no objection to the supplying nearly all the wealthy people in the town with elegantly bound bibles at the reduced prices at which it was only intended they should be sold to the poor. I have made this application to show the folly and injustice to the great body of the subscribers to the Bible society of continuing this course. *Deputation:* The force of your comparison is irresistible—this thing must be altered; the only excuse that we can make is that the evil you complain of is general all over the kingdom, and the injustice never struck us until the coal question forced it upon us so *mal apropos*. We have not heard what the effect has been of this little discussion, but we understand that in more than one town attention has been called to the same subject.

**CONVERT TO THE ROMISH CHURCH.**—It will, no doubt, surprise many of our readers to be informed, not so much that the eminent and gifted vocalist, Mrs Wood, has withdrawn herself from the stage, for that she intended to retire to an estate purchased by Mr Wood, in Yorkshire, was currently reported some time ago, as that this event has been brought about in consequence of that lady having embraced the doctrines of the Roman Catholic faith; at least, so we are informed from a respectable quarter, from which we have received the following additional statement:—"As the tenets of the Catholic church do not recognise the English law of divorce, and as Lord William Lennox, Mrs Wood's former husband, is still alive, she has been compelled to separate from Mr Wood before she could be received into the communion of the Catholic church. To this separation Mr Wood has consented, and has likewise generously provided for her maintenance. Mrs Wood at present is staying at Micklegate Bar, a convent at York, and would, in all probability, make her first communion on Sunday last." — *Manchester Guardian*.

It is said that a requisition to Dr Chalmers to proceed to London, and deliver a series of lectures on the independence proper and essential to a church in connexion with the state, has been set on foot in London, and is in course of subscription. Among the requisitionists are the Duke of Argyll, the Hon. Fox Maule, &c.

**MEETING OF THE IRISH ASSEMBLY.**—In compliance with several requisitions, the Moderator has called an extraordinary meeting of the Assembly for Tuesday, the 28th inst., in May street church, at noon. The subjects for consideration are, the state of the parent church, the marriage question, and the bicentenary fund. — *Banner of Ulster*.

## Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Amongst the letters of your correspondents of last week, I observed one from a gentleman explaining the position in which a certain young man was about to be placed in the church over which he was pastor. Now, sir, as I am sure you are always ready to instruct the ignorant, I would beg to submit this question to you—In what part of the word of God can we find authority for the bishop of a church to employ a curate? And I do this with the sincere desire to be instructed, as I have been unable by my own unaided efforts to discover the slightest allusion to such an office in the formation of the first churches; and as we profess to take the "word of God as our rule of faith and practice," it looks, to my mind, very like a violation of a fundamental principle. I remain, &c.,  
Feb. 1, 1843. AN ANXIOUS INQUIRER.

## A REFORMED CLERGYMAN.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—An uncommon sensation has been excited in Hexham and other parts of Northumberland, as well as at Cumberworth in Yorkshire, by the recent secession of the rector of the latter place from the communion of the established church. The Rev. George Bird, an interesting young minister, who, to save the bird in his breast, has nobly sacrificed his greatest temporal interests, his hopes of rising in the church, and the approbation of his dearest earthly connexions, is the son of a beneficed clergyman in this neighbourhood—a pluralist, and an extorter of even the smallest ecclesiastical claims. The example of young Mr Bird is deserving of the attention of ministers of the establishment generally, who would be considered pious and consistent; but commends itself particularly to those evangelical clergymen who have so far got their eyes opened as to discover many glaring enormities in the state church; and have had the candour to avow their convictions, but who continue to occupy the anomalous position of priests in a hierarchy which they denounce—ministers of formularies which they despise—and members of a communion which they heartily disapprove.

In an address to the people of his chapelry the rector thus wrote, whilst yet their minister:—"My decision is made. I here publicly declare that I will no longer be a party to the formality and awful scandals which now disgrace the church of Christ. As far as I am concerned, at least, the church shall no longer be made a convenience for the careless and the covetous, a receptacle for the refuse of all other associations, or an utensil in the hands of earthly politicians. Its sacred rules shall no longer be compromised to suit the fashions of an evil world; and its privileges and sanctions shall be no longer used as a cloak for sin. Whether it is or is not your will to join me in this righteous undertaking, I shall at least ease my own conscience."

I cannot attempt in this letter, sir, to give an adequate idea of the scheme of church reform which he propounds; but must notice, *en passant*, that he freely gives up church rates, and fearlessly appeals to the voluntary system. On his peculiar views of Christianity I cannot at present remark, but giving him credit for purity of motive, would commend his example to those clergymen, and dissenting ministers too, who, to say the very least, have far too much regard to the emoluments of office—too little to the conscientious discharge of duty.

I remain, sir, yours very truly,

Hexham, Feb. 11, 1843.

JOS. RIDLEY.

## Imperial Parliament.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Church extension, 5.  
Church of Scotland, to adopt measures to prevent collision of civil and ecclesiastical courts of, 1.  
Mines and Collieries act, for repeal of, 1.  
Property Tax act, for repeal of, 2.  
Special commission, inquiry into proceedings of late, 6.  
St Asaph and Bangor, against union of sees of, 15.

## PUBLIC BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

## BILLS PRESENTED AND READ A FIRST TIME.

1. Ecclesiastical Courts bill.  
2. Personation of Voters bill.  
3. Transported Convicts bill.

## BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

Medical Charities (Ireland) bill.

## CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Forged exchequer bills—Resolved, That her Majesty be enabled to direct exchequer bills, to an amount not exceeding £262,000, to be issued, under certain regulations, for the relief of the holders of certain forged exchequer bills.

## MOTIONS.

Public accounts—Motion made and question proposed, "That there be laid before this House, a return of the recommendations contained in the reports of the commissioners appointed on the 8th day of July, 1831, to make inquiries and to examine into the manner in which the public money is received and paid in the several departments of receipt and payment, and into the system of keeping the accounts in the same, and to suggest such improvements as may appear to them to be practicable and necessary; and also a statement, showing what parts thereof have been carried into effect." (Mr William Williams.) Motion, by leave, withdrawn.  
Governor-general of India—Motion made and question proposed, "That there be laid before this House, a copy of any despatch from the Governor-general of India to the Court of Directors, containing a proclamation addressed to the chiefs and princes of India, respecting the recovery of the gates of the temple of Somnath; also, copy of a proclamation by the Governor-general of India, respecting the evacuation of Afghanistan, dated Zimla, October 1, 1842." (Mr Vernon Smith.) Question put and agreed to.

## DEBATES.

Thursday, February 9.

## ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

Dr NICHOLL, the judge advocate-general, moved for leave to bring in a bill to alter and amend the law relating to the administration of justice in the ecclesiastical courts of England and Wales. He briefly sketched the origin of our ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and showed that it had been gradually encroached on, and appropriated by the statute law, until the basis of the jurisdiction had been swept away. Yet there were no less than 400 ecclesiastical or diocesan courts, under various titles or classes,



subordinate to one another, empowered to grant probate of wills, entrusted with the custody of wills, and having jurisdiction in the administration of property; upwards of forty-three millions annually passing under their seal. Their number, their conflicting decisions, their costliness and inadequacy, have long called for reformation; and the present bill proposes, therefore, to separate the spiritual and temporal jurisdictions, to erect a court in London, with a judge to be appointed by her Majesty, for the temporal jurisdiction, and to effect certain alterations and improvements in the constitution of the ecclesiastical courts having cognisance of spirituals. The right honourable and learned gentleman stated the procedure to be adopted with respect to the administration of property in the proposed new court, with which is to be connected a central general registry of wills, and to which also is to be transferred from the local courts the jurisdiction in the matter of church rates. The ecclesiastical commission, upon whose recommendation these changes have been undertaken, was composed of men whose names carried authority with them; and the bill would effect a great practical improvement, long desired, and which, for many years, has occupied the attention of the legislature. Dr Nicholl concluded by stating the position in which he himself would be placed by the proposed changes.

Mr JERVIS, Dr STOCK, and Sir ROBERT HARRY INGLIS commented on the provisions of the bill, objections being stated to the "centralisation" of the jurisdiction as to property, which would be effected by the erection of the new London court, and the expenses that would be incurred by parties who resided at a distance. Sir R. Inglis in particular, said he would not give his consent to the introduction of the bill, unless he were assured that the courts of the two universities were not to be abolished.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL gave his general approbation to the plan.

Mr HUME wished to know whether this reform was to increase expense to the public, as had been the case with the late reform in the proceedings of the court of Chancery? He thought, on general principles, that these smaller courts ought to be abolished; but the House would be better able to deal with this subject when they should have been informed of the provisions intended to be enacted by the County Courts bill. He was favourable to the withdrawal of the clergy from all judicial and other civil business, for which they too often neglected their spiritual duty.

Mr CHRISTIE called the attention of government to the regulation which excludes dissenters from practising in the ecclesiastical courts, by requiring, as a qualification, a doctor's degree, taken at Oxford or Cambridge.

Mr PROTHIERO approved the proposal of Dr Nicholl, whom, however, he warned of the necessity for providing some fit place to receive the vast mass of records which his bill would bring to London.

Mr WYNDHAM, in vindicating the clergy against the imputation of neglecting their spiritual duties, attacked Mr Hume with so much heat that the Speaker called him to order. He reminded the House of the busy part taken by the dissenting ministers in the Anti-corn-law League.

Dr NICHOLL replied to the objections which had been urged, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

#### LORD ELLENBOROUGH'S PROCLAMATION.

Mr VERNON SMITH moved for a copy of any despatch from the Governor-general of India to the court of Directors, containing a proclamation addressed to the chiefs and princes of India, respecting the recovery of the gates of the temple of Somnath, and any answer of the court of Directors to the Governor-general of India. He explained the object which he had in view in moving for this document, and commented on the mischievous nature of the proclamation. Lord Ellenborough had not only encouraged gross and licentious idolatry, but was risking the excitement of fanatical animosity between Hindoos and Mahomedans, while the gates so pompously brought back required the erection of a new temple, and the purchase of a new idol. The man who could issue such a proclamation was unfit to be trusted with the government of India—that great empire was unsafe under his rule. There were other rumours, too, which, if true, would indicate that Lord Ellenborough's head had been turned by his elevation.

Mr BINGHAM BARING attributed the attacks upon Lord Ellenborough, through the medium of the press in India, to his financial reforms, which raised up enemies. The sandal wood gates were regarded as a national trophy by both Hindoos and Mahomedans, and were viewed as such without reference to religious opinions. Lord Ellenborough had, therefore, in view the gratification of a general feeling of triumph over their Afghan oppressors, in his proclamation to the princes and chiefs of India. The documents moved for would be granted—that is, a copy of the proclamation, with anything in Lord Ellenborough's correspondence which had reference to it.

Sir R. H. INGLIS hoped that Lord Ellenborough had better friends and defenders than Mr Bingham Baring. The House was not a tribunal for judging of taste in composition, for if it were, other proclamations might be brought before it. But the fact of the restoration of the gates was before it. These gates, and their history, were really utterly unknown to the Hindoo people; the temple had also been so thoroughly destroyed and desecrated as to have lost all veneration in the Hindoo mind. The original cause of its destruction by Sultan Mahmoud was abhorrence of disgusting idolatry. He was a barbarian, but a barbarian endowed with many great qualities.

Was it worthy of a Christian governor to desecrate the sanctuary of the dead for the purpose of conciliating a divided people, by paying homage to idolatry? Lord Ellenborough governed at least ten millions of Mohammedans, whom he ran the risk of offending. He (Sir R. Inglis) would not be satisfied even with a simple disavowal of the proclamation by Sir Robert Peel; the country expected a vote of censure.

Sir ROBERT PEEL thought it would have been fairer in Mr Vernon Smith to have confined himself to a simple request for papers, which he knew would be conceded, instead of attempting, before the evidence was before him, to prejudice and prejudice a question on which he proposed to found a motion. Mr Smith had himself borne testimony to his knowledge of Lord Ellenborough's ability; and all who knew the religious feelings of that noble lord must acquit him of any intention whatever of wounding the Christian spirit of this country. The government were not in possession of any explanation as to the proclamation; but Sir Robert Peel read extracts from correspondence addressed to him by the Governor-general, showing that, at the very time the proclamation appeared, he was under the impression of devout Christian feelings. Sir Robert Inglis had given too much credit to the character of Sultan Mahmoud, when he attributed his repeated invasions of India to abhorrence of idolatry; and in the work of Mount-stewart Elphinstone, he would find that these gates were spoken of precisely as Lord Ellenborough viewed them, namely, as a military trophy. He believed that it never entered into the head of the Governor-general either to pay any homage to idolatry, or to "restore" the temple of Somnath. At the same time, he was bound in candour to admit that the proclamation had attracted the attention of the government, and they had frankly communicated their opinions on it to Lord Ellenborough. But the real question was, whether or not a single isolated act of any public man should be made the pretext for running him down. He reminded the House of the difference between the condition of India now and a year ago; then terrific disasters to repair, now peace restored; and was it just or fair in the authors of these disasters to fasten on this proclamation, and to attempt to excite public feeling, or to propose a vote of censure against the man whose energy and policy had repaired them?

Mr MANGLES observed that no special efforts were necessary to conciliate the Hindoos, who were an attached people; but that there was great danger in annoying the Mahomedans, who were an irritable race. He denied that there had been any virtual change from Lord Auckland's policy.

Mr HUME delivered a few sentences against Lord Ellenborough.

Lord J. RUSSELL said, that after what had passed in the debate, and particularly after Sir R. Peel's intimation of his own disapproval, he should hardly have thought it necessary to trouble the House, had not Sir R. Peel traveled into other topics, and, in order to shelter Lord Ellenborough, attacked his predecessors. He would now say, that this proclamation was not the only act of Lord Ellenborough which he thought censurable. On the military part of the subject he would not pronounce an opinion before the production of the papers; but of the Governor's civil conduct the House could adequately judge without them. He had behaved with a blameable discourtesy to several persons of high desert; he had published another proclamation, conveying a foolish insult to his predecessor, grossly misrepresenting his conduct and his motives, and this in his absence. Then he had made unwise declarations about the natural limits of the British empire in India, and given out that this empire is to be for ever limited by the Indus. The course taken by him was not accurately represented as a reversal of the former policy; and a governor capable of calumniating his predecessor as Lord Ellenborough had done, was not a man in whose hands such an empire as that of India could safely be left.

Mr C. BULLER thought the government would find reason to regret that they had challenged inquiry into the general conduct of Lord Ellenborough, instead of suffering him to be condemned upon a single issue. He desired to have some further papers, which Sir R. PEEL agreed to produce.

Mr V. SMITH said a few words in reply, and the debate concluded.

Friday, February 10.

TURNPIKE TRUSTS.—Mr Manners Sutton begged leave to introduce a bill, amending the law which relates to turnpike trusts and mortgages thereon. The object of the measure was to provide some remedy for the altered circumstances in which these trusts have been placed by the competition of railroads. After some conversation, in which Mr Rice, Mr Mackinnon, and Mr Fox Maule took part, the motion was granted.

PERSONATION OF VOTERS AT ELECTIONS.—Mr Liddell moved for leave to bring in a bill for preventing the fraudulent personation of voters at contested elections. He proposed to give a summary remedy against fraudulent personation, by enabling the returning officer, or other person presiding in a polling booth, to give into custody any voter who might be accused of personation, so as to have the matter promptly investigated, and the guilty person punished. After a brief conversation, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Monday, February 13.

FORGED EXCHEQUER BILLS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved that the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole House on the subject of forged exchequer bills.

He announced the views of government on the matter. The objections which he had originally entertained against compensation had been materially diminished by the report of the commissioners appointed to investigate the case. They had divided the bill-holders into four classes; the first comprising the great bulk of the claimants, who had become possessors of the bills in the common course of business, and without blame. The amount claimed by these was £187,000, and this amount it seemed fitting that the public should make good. The second and third classes had become holders under circumstances of less caution, but not circumstances under which the government would think it right to withhold the compensation. With respect to the fourth class the case was different; Rapallo and Solari, unaided, could never have effected their frauds upon this great scale. They had placed bills to the amount of many hundreds of thousands of pounds in the hands of Morgan, and as much more in the hands of Mariner. The amount was itself a circumstance of suspicion; still more suspicious was it that they would not permit the sale of any one of those bills. The general result would be, that of the £377,000 found in circulation, the public might properly be called on to make good an amount of £262,000. He had, of course, been unwilling to throw such a burden on the country; but he did feel, though this was not a case where any strict legal right existed, that it was one in which the circumstances were peculiar, the person who committed the forgery having been then high in a government office, and intrusted by government itself with the paper, the seal, and all the other materials and facilities which had enabled him to effect the deception.

Mr WILLIAMS complained that the commissioners had taken the evidence in an imperfect and unsatisfactory way; and he thought that want of due caution was imputable to more of the parties than the one class whom the government now proposed to exclude from the compensation.

Colonel SIBTHORP thought the loss ought to fall upon Lord Monteagle, and recommended an address to the Crown for removing him from his situation.

Mr HUME wished to know whether government had not obtained some information from Rapallo which had not been communicated, but which pointed at other parties as having shared with Beaumont Smith, or contributed to the loss by their connivance or negligence?

Mr ROEBUCK inquired whether great part of the loss had not been incurred during a six months' absence of the Controller; and referred to the words of the act of parliament regulating his duties, which authorises only such absence as is occasional and necessary.

Mr JAMES begged to know if precautions had been taken to prevent future losses?

Mr GOULBURN did not know at what points of time the losses had taken place, nor what had been the periods of the Controller's absence. An act of parliament had passed to guard against such losses in future.

Sir J. DUKE suggested that official persons, like Beaumont Smith, ought not to be permitted by government to connect themselves with city transactions at all.

Mr F. BARING vindicated Lord Monteagle from the imputation of negligent absence. He approved the principle on which Mr Goulburn had acted, and the line he had drawn between those who were and those who were not to receive compensation.

Colonel SIBTHORP insisted upon the great amount of the bills signed during the absence of Lord Monteagle.

After a few words from Mr TURNER, Mr ESCOTT expressed his regret that such a vote of public money should be asked, while it still was left a matter of obscurity whether the absence of a high public officer, during which the losses had taken place, was a culpable one or not.

Sir T. WILDE argued that there was no one particular period to which the mischief was referable; the forgeries had taken place from time to time, whenever the exigencies of the conspirators required a supply. He approved the compensation; the public could not have protected themselves by any vigilance. The true test was to treat the bills as if they had been stolen, in which case a holder would only have had to show his own title a fair one. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had drawn the proper line; but even the fourth class, who were now excluded, ought to have an opportunity afforded to them of proving their *bona fides*, if it were capable of proof.

A vote was then taken of exchequer bills to the amount of 262,000*l*.

#### THE DISTRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

Lord HOWICK rose to move a committee of the whole House, for considering the reference in the Queen's speech to the long continued depression of manufacturing industry, with a view to determine whether some legislative interposition might not be necessary for the relief of the people. He was convinced that the country, in its present state, could not safely be left to itself; but still he would not have proposed this committee if he had not believed that the causes of the distress were within the reach of remedy. Not months only, but years, had now elapsed since the general commencement of that still prevalent distress. Prices had fallen, and employment was diminished. Not only in manufacturing and agricultural districts, but among the mining and shipping interests, the general privation was felt. Whether in the lower or in the upper ranks, there was hardly a family which was not called on to trench some comfort or enjoyment to which it had



been accustomed. He would not go into details extending over the kingdom at large; but he would state the condition of the great town of Sunderland, which he represented, and the county of Northumberland, with which he was most particularly connected. Those concerned in the coal trade of Sunderland had reduced the quantity of employment in the mines to the minimum allowed by their agreements with their workmen, by which the latter were deprived of about one-sixth of their ordinary receipts. He enumerated a variety of failures among shipbuilders, merchants, and traders.

In 1839 there were 80 shipbuilders in the port, of whom 36 have failed, to the aggregate amount of £320,000, and five have declined business (hear). Twenty merchants and chain and anchor-smiths have failed, to the aggregate amount of £100,000. A great number of grocers and others have also failed to large amounts. In the High street alone, from forty to fifty shops are unoccupied, in consequence of the greater part of the previous tenants having become insolvent. To this it was added—and it was well worthy the attention of the House in considering what were the real causes of agricultural distress—the quantity of meat sold is stated by the butchers not to be more than one-half in 1842 what it was in 1841. He would further confirm these representations, by referring to the condition of the borough of Sunderland in respect of poor rates. This subject was mentioned a few evenings ago by the hon. member for North Durham, and he believed the statements of the hon. gentleman were pretty accurate. The borough of Sunderland consisted of three parishes, Sunderland, Bishopwearmouth, and Monkwearmouth. The first of these parishes was chiefly inhabited by the working classes, and the rates for the last six months had been 18s. in the pound, on a rating on two-thirds of the rack-rent. The average for the whole year was 17s. 5½d., which was actually collected, the rate being on two-thirds of the rack-rent valuation.

In the county of Northumberland also distress was heavily and generally felt. Farming stock had fallen in price, notwithstanding the concurrence of almost all the circumstances which are found in general to raise it. The wages of agricultural labourers had not yet partaken the general depression; but symptoms were apparent that these also would shortly be affected. The numbers of casual poor had greatly increased, and appeared to be even yet increasing. The revenue had fallen off, and mainly upon excisable articles—the articles of general consumption and comfort. A forced economy was painful enough in any class of life; how severely must it be felt by the humbler classes when, by degrees, the father of a family found all his own enjoyments cut off, then saw his wife and children declining into rags, and at length was compelled to deny them the luxury of bread! Notwithstanding the abundance of the last harvest, and the mildness of the current season, the present winter was one of extensive suffering. It was always difficult to satisfy the distressed that their grievances were not owing to some fault on the part of their rulers; and he himself was impressed with the conviction that the present state of things could not have subsisted so long without something amiss in our institutions.

This conclusion he should arrive at by the mere knowledge of the fact of the continuance of the distress; but he was also supported in that conclusion by other considerations of various descriptions. But if there was not something wrong in the organisation of society—something out of order and jarring in the political machine—whence came it about that this distress had been of so long continuance? Was not the country still in possession of all the natural advantages of soil, climate, and position, which she had hitherto enjoyed, and which formed such main elements of her prosperity? The climate had lost nothing of its genial character, the soil had not been deprived of its accustomed fertility. Indeed it was generally admitted that the last harvest was one of more than ordinary abundance. The capital of the country, if it could be but productively invested, was, perhaps, greater now than at any previous period—the energy, the activity, the industry, and the skill, of our artisans had not declined, and the spirit of enterprise was most actively alive. Under all these circumstances, with all the primary elements of wealth which skill, capital, and industry afforded—with all these means and appliances for prosperity, how did it come to pass that, throughout all classes of society, the whole community were labouring under difficulties and distress? There must be some reason—some cause operating to produce so extended an evil; and whatever cause that was, it surely ought not to be beyond the reach of that House to discover, and when discovered to apply a remedy.

He did not look for a remedy in an alteration of the currency; that would rather aggravate than alleviate our evils; we must not deprive ourselves of a fixed measure of value and a certain medium of exchange. Nor did he refer the mischief to the amount of our taxation. Some supposed the sources of our evils to be over-speculation, over-production, and the too extensive use of machinery; but over-production could not be an evil when it was universal; a nation could not have too much of everything useful and agreeable. Others attributed our condition to the Poor law; but the same miseries were prevalent in Scotland, where this Poor law had no place. The intense competition which now existed in every walk of life was no doubt an active cause of depression in prices and in wages, but that competition was owing only to the want of a profitable field for the employment of capital and labour. Artificial barriers had been erected to shut out that field, but it was in our power to remove those barriers. They had been erected for the very purpose of narrowing our intercourse with foreign nations, especially in articles of food. An import trade once established in cattle, or corn, or coffee, or sugar, must eventually generate an equivalent trade of export, and so give employment to your capital and labour. Your export trade, therefore, must always be the measure of your import trade. Poor and barbarous nations are bad customers to you, because they can give you nothing in return for your exports. But if you exclude the produce of countries which are rich and civilised, you reduce them, as far as you are concerned, to the state of poor and barbarous nations. Our domestic prosperity had been remarkable, mainly for this reason, that we had never suffered the restrictive system to prevail between the districts of England. The restrictive theory as between England and other nations was built upon the old error of the balance of trade—the notion that a nation's wealth is constituted by the balance of gold and silver received by her in exchange for her exports. But that error had at this day no defenders, and as it had fallen, so ought to fall the

fallacious system built upon it. This was not the time for detail. He would not venture to say to what extent they ought at the present moment to remove the restrictions upon trade; neither would he venture, on the present occasion, to enter into details; but if the House would consent to go into committee, he would then be prepared to meet even upon details any argument that might be offered against the views and opinions he had expressed. The present was not the time for details, or for expressing an opinion as to the propriety of substituting for the existing corn laws either a perfectly free trade or a moderate fixed duty; or for saying to what extent the duty upon foreign coffee, sugar, spirits, and other articles that might be imported from foreign countries ought to be reduced. All he asked the House by his motion was to declare, that in consideration of the extremity of the present distress and sufferings of the people they would review the commercial policy of the country for the purpose of making further progress in the removal of those restrictions by which its industry was now cramped and confined. Either the principles of free trade avowed last year by ministers were right, or they were wrong. If right, why not now proceed upon them? If wrong, why, for their sake, had ministers last year unsettled the whole system of the country? The noble lord concluded by reading the following motion:—

"That this House do resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, to consider so much of her Majesty's speech as refers to that depression of the manufacturing industry of the country which has so long prevailed, and which her Majesty has so deeply lamented."

Mr GLADSTONE admitted the general truth of the picture drawn by Lord Howick of present distress; but qualified it by explanations respecting several of the suffering interests. The employment of labour was now, he would not say a little more plentiful, but a little less scanty, than of late, and there was some increase of the deposits in the savings' banks. The noble lord had reprobated the income tax.

It must be admitted on all hands that at least such a tax has one great merit, that it does reach what no other tax can be guaranteed to reach—that enormous accumulation of wealth which is constantly arising in this country. It is one of the most melancholy features in the social state of this country, that we see, beyond the possibility of denial, that while there is at this moment a decrease in the consuming powers of the people—an increase of the pressure of privations and distress—there is at the same time a constant accumulation of wealth in the upper classes, an increase of the luxuriousness of their habits, and of their means of enjoyment; which, however satisfactory it may be as affording evidence of the existence of an element of our national prosperity, yet adds bitterly to the reflections which are forced upon us by the distresses of our fellow-countrymen; and, in this point of view, I cannot help thinking that all the arguments which the noble lord has advanced upon the question of the income tax, are satisfactorily met by the fact that it is upon these accumulating riches that this impost chiefly rests.

Lord Howick had moved for a committee, but he had shrunk from announcing any specific remedy, to be laid before it. Why had the noble lord proposed to go into a committee without being prepared to produce any measure for their consideration?

The noble lord had shrunk from making any specific proposition; and it was not possible for the wit of man to have devised a proceeding more inconvenient or impracticable than that proposed by the noble lord to frustrate his humane and benevolent object. A committee of the whole House! What for? To consider the corn laws? the sugar laws? To undo this year what they did last year? No such thing; but to consider the state of the country. Was it possible to conceive that any good could come from such a motion? He was sure the noble lord in bringing forward his motion must have been convinced of the certainty of its rejection. But the inconvenience of this proceeding was not its only ground for rejection. He did not think that anything could operate with more pernicious effect on a feverish and languishing state of commercial industry than such a proposed inquiry.

Even the measures of last year, specific as they were, had, during their discussion, the ill effect of unsettling the public mind. What, then, must be the inconvenience and disadvantage of originating a committee for reconsidering and reconstructing the whole system of last year, without the suggestion of anything to supply its place? The noble lord, to be consistent with his own argument, should have moved for the abolition of all restrictions; but, perhaps, this form of motion had been chosen for its convenience.

It appeared to him that the present motion served a purpose; which no other motion with which he was acquainted could effect. Let them return to the history of the last year. The noble lord, the member for London, was determined to lead the attack on the corn laws; and he arranged with the gentlemen who sat behind him—he did not know whether that noble lord could still call them his friends, to quote an expression of the noble lord (Lord Howick), that he should commence the movement of the session with the debate on the fixed duty. The debate on the fixed duty went off with *clat*. The noble lord mustered the whole strength of his party, and, all circumstances considered, made a respectable appearance. But what became of the member for Wolverhampton? The noble lord took all the bloom off his motion; and the hon. member for Wolverhampton had nothing but stale dregs to offer. After he and his friends had passed muster, and helped to swell the minority of the noble lord, they were allowed to have a separate debate. Very few members attended, and the noble lord joined in increasing the majority against them.

The motion had this great advantage, that it did not pledge anybody to anything. He, however, would not confine himself to showing the objections against this motion; he thought it his duty, holding office, to go further, and state the views of the government. The fitness of relaxing restrictions, where relaxation might be practicable, was on all hands admitted; the question of this day was simply, what amount of such relaxation the state of the country would bear? The great object was not so much to cheapen foreign goods as to create additional trade, with due care to avoid any great shock to the trade already existing. On that principle the measures of last year had been founded, and he believed that not only had no branch of domestic trade sustained any serious damage from it, but even that there was already a tendency to enlargement in the home markets. He instanced the articles of timber, oak bark, hides, indigo, turpentine, and other raw materials. The great object at the back of this motion was, no doubt, the corn law. But gentlemen opposite did not agree about that law; some were for total repeal; others, with Lord John Russell at their head,

were for a fixed duty. Corn had never, for centuries, been dealt with on the same principles as other produce; and under the system which had so long prevailed, enormous investments had been made. In the abstract, to be sure, the same theory which was good as to cattle was good as to corn; but by any great alteration of the import law respecting cattle, there was no displacement of labour and capital; but capital and labour would be displaced to an immense amount by a sweeping change on the subject of corn. He did not say, after the experience of so many changes in the laws respecting corn, that the present corn law must be immutable; but he did say that the principle of protection for corn must be maintained so long as protection should be continued to the produce of the country. He believed that, as between landlord, tenant, and labourer, the landlord would be that party of the three who would suffer the least by a change in the corn law. He admitted that an increase of trade, to be produced by the relaxation of restrictions on the import of corn, would compensate English agriculture for the disadvantage of some foreign competition in the home corn market; but what he objected to was, that the increase of trade so to be produced was only assumed, and not demonstrated; while the displacement of agricultural labour at home would be certain and immediate. But it was said we ought to give to foreign states at least an indication of our willingness to remove restrictions. We had given such indications in our tariff of last year; but while France, and Germany, and America should continue to adopt an adverse or an uncertain policy, we could not venture to increase these indications. Admitting the general principles of the noble lord, he must consider them, as every government for the last twenty-five years had considered them, to be questions of time and degree.

Mr LABOUCHERE said, that he had always thought Mr Gladstone capable of arguing well on any side of any question; to-night had proved that he could argue on both sides of the same question in the same speech. Lord Howick was not justly censured for having called on the House to embark in this inquiry without chart or compass; he had not taken the helm until after the regular pilot, the first minister of the crown, had avowed that he himself had no new course to recommend. When the last government was in office, their opponents used to reproach them for not fulfilling the proper duty of a government by the proposal of substantive measures. There seemed to be some discrepancy between the minister and the last speaker. The minister had said, when he proposed the tariff, that it would lower prices to a degree sufficient to compensate the income tax; but the last speaker had just declared that the tariff had not lowered prices in any assignable degree. Mr Labouchere, after urging the especial necessity of a relaxation in what he described as the sugar monopoly, adverted to Mr Gladstone's declaration that the question was now what amount of relaxation the country could bear; observing, however, that with the present ministry it was not a question what the country would bear, but what the country gentlemen would bear. He concluded by an urgent appeal to ministers to legislate for the relief of the present distress, and not to look on with folded arms at the miseries of a suffering people.

Mr FERRAND argued that the general election had proved the opinions of the country to be against the doctrines of free trade. He condemned the government for having departed from the principles which they were sent into the house to support. He went on to furnish a good deal of information on the statistics of labour in the manufacturing districts, and condemned the efforts made by the masters to lower wages by importing great bodies of labourers from the south into the manufacturing establishments of the north. He produced returns showing a diminution of wages, a demoralisation, and a physical suffering, which he attributed to the extensive introduction of machinery. On this subject he read a great variety of extracts from letters and other documents, and among them some lines from a poem which he attributed to Dr Bowring. Here is the scene:—

There was the hon. and learned member for Bolton (Dr Bowring), and by the way that hon. and learned member had lately turned poet ("Oh, oh," and laughter). He assured the House that it was true. He had written some lines for circulation or sale at the Anti-corn-law bazaar as it was called, though he (Mr Ferrand) feared their more immediate object was to excite the working classes into rebellion. He would not take up the time of the House by reading the lines in question (cries of "Read, read," and laughter). Read! oh, certainly, if the House wished it. The lines were headed—"Died of Starvation.—Coroner's Inquest." And certainly they were not inappropriate to the subject he had brought under notice. The hon. member then read as follows:—

"I met famine on my way,  
Prowling for her human prey,  
Clogg'd with filth and clad in rags,  
Ugliest of all ugly hags.  
Lo! a sceptre wreath'd of snakes,  
In her withered hand she shakes,  
And I heard the hag proclaim,  
'Bread tax is my sceptre's name.'  
[Bread tax! said the hon. member, I would say—  
Power loom is my sceptre's name.] (Laughter.)  
On remorseless mission bent,  
Maiming, murdering as she went,  
Spreading death from street to street,  
Oh! I hear the hag repeat,  
(Shuddering while I heard and saw)  
Mine is right, and might, and law!  
Then to solitude I flew,  
Gracious Heav'n! can this be true?  
On my trembling knees I fell,  
God! thou God of mercy! tell—  
Can the very fiends of hell  
In thy name their pandects draw,  
And declare their license law?  
Dare they, in thy holy sight,  
To proclaim their robbery right?  
Rouse thee, raise thine awful rod,  
Lord—how long! How long—O God?"

The late outbreaks had, he was prepared to affirm, originated with the Anti-corn-law League. If an



inquiry were gone into, he (Mr Ferrand) would be prepared with evidence to prove that those outbreaks originated with the League. The League themselves ought to court an inquiry, and the government, in justice to all classes, should institute it. If such an inquiry were ordered, and the working classes came before parliament in all their misery and wretchedness, he hoped the House would be able to afford them redress. He concluded by moving, as an amendment to Lord Howick's motion, that the proposed committee should inquire into the effects of machinery, and into the origin of the disturbances mentioned in the speech from the throne.

The debate was then adjourned to Tuesday evening.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**CANADIAN CORN.**—On Thursday night, Mr Charles Wood, in the absence of Mr Labouchere, moved for copies or extracts of any communications which have taken place between her Majesty's government and the authorities of Canada, respecting the duties levied on wheat imported from the United States into Canada, or from Canada into the United Kingdom, since the 1st of January, 1842. Lord Stanley acceded to the motion, as it would enable the House hereafter to enter on the proper consideration of the subject. Mr Villiers, Mr M. Gibson, and Mr Ewart pressed Lord Stanley to say, whether or not the government intended to bring in a measure this session to alter the scale of duty on the introduction of colonial grain. But the noble lord declined to do so, until the papers were before the House.

Amongst the notices given on the same evening, was one of great length by Mr Ferrand, of an amendment to Mr Villiers's motion for the total repeal of the corn laws, the reading of which took up some time. Sir R. H. Inglis objected particularly to one expression in it, by which the term of "Bank of Squander" was applied to a well-known establishment in Manchester. Mr Roebuck also asked if it was competent for the honourable member to place a political pamphlet in the shape of a notice on the paper. The Speaker recommended Mr Ferrand to withdraw his notice, which he did.

Mr Fox Maule, after presenting a petition from the commissioners of the General Assembly, gave notice that he should, on Friday next, move that the petitioners be heard at the bar in support of the prayer of their petition.

Sir James Graham gave notice that on Friday next he would move for leave to bring in a bill for the better registration of voters in England and Wales.

**EXTENDED REPRESENTATION.**—Mr S. Crawford gave notice that on Thursday, the 23rd inst., he should move for leave to bring in a bill to obtain a full representation of the people in parliament, and to shorten the duration of parliaments.

**CHURCH EXTENSION.**—In reply to Mr Hawes, on Wednesday, Sir Robert Peel observed, if he were to say that government did intend to propose a measure upon this subject, it would, perhaps, be inferred that a very large and extensive measure was in contemplation, and that a large vote of public money was to be proposed. Guarding himself, then, against any misconception of that kind, he should say that he hoped very speedily to be able to call the attention of the House to the subject, with a view to render as available as possible, for purposes of church extension, the growing revenue which would be at the disposal of the ecclesiastical commissioners.

**PUBLIC MONIES.**—Mr William Williams moved, on Thursday, for an account of pensions and other emoluments, exceeding in all £1000, enjoyed by any person in the last year, distinguishing the amount received by privy councillors. A discussion took place on the question whether privy councillors should be distinguished. At length Sir Robert Peel promised that the return should be so constructed as to show every man's receipt of income, including privy councillors, who would be distinguished by their title of "Right Honourable." But as no one received a salary because he was a privy councillor, there was no more fitness in calling for a classification of privy councillors than of judges, or general officers, or any other description of public servants. The return was ordered.

On Monday evening, in reply to a question from Sir T. G. Colebrooke, Sir R. Peel stated that in all probability the Amcens of Scinde would agree to the conditions of the proposed new treaty.

Sir R. Peel also announced that government had no intention of proposing any measure relative to the Bank of England or private and joint stock banks.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, Feb. 9.

## DISTRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

Earl STANHOPE brought forward his motion for a committee to inquire into the present state of the working classes, with a view to providing them with profitable employment. The noble lord commenced his speech with a wholesale attack upon free trade, asserting that it was odious and injurious to all classes of the people. The conservative government had begun their career by steering a whig course under their own colours, and Sir Robert Peel had only obtained power by deceiving his supporters. The people demanded redress of their grievances.

For his part, he (Earl Stanhope) believed that the demand was sanctioned by the most urgent necessity. Let them seriously consider the melancholy circumstances under which they were assembled. Let them seriously reflect on the present condition of the country—a condition which was daily becoming more awful and alarming—a condition, the consequences of which must be fearful in their nature, if they were not absolutely fatal to the nation. There was some evidences of that condition in the disturbances of last autumn—disturbances, however, which were generally unaccompanied by violence, and which, save only in one district, that of North Staffordshire, assumed

the shape of merely a strike for wages. But such a state of things, if allowed to continue, could only have one ultimate termination; it would end, as he (Lord Stanhope) had some time ago predicted in that house, in a general revolution—not such as that which was styled by common consent the glorious revolution of 1688, but a social revolution, accompanied by the total and entire subversion of our establishments.

The distress existed not merely in the manufacturing, but was also felt severely in the agricultural districts, and he would assert, on the authority of Sir R. Peel, that machinery had, in a measure, been the cause of that distress. The new tariff had lessened the landed property in Scotland one-third, and from 20 to 25 per cent. in Ireland. The right of the working classes to a fair remuneration for their labour, was as unquestionable as their lordships' titles to their estates. But their property was confiscated by act of parliament; and the working classes, whose wages were reduced, were not represented in the House of Commons.

The productive and industrial classes had a right to demand such protection; and if they were not sufficiently protected, no country could be prosperous or secure. It could not prosper if those classes that should be consumers were too poor to purchase; and it could not be secure, because distress made them the ready tools of political demagogues. Unless protection were given to the labouring classes their lordships could not expect their allegiance, and if they had not their allegiance they might apprehend disorganisation and confusion.

There was another consequence which might follow the refusal to examine into and redress the grievances of the nation.

If it should be denied, or if it should be too long delayed, there would then be afforded a practical argument, which might be unanswerable, and which he believed would prove to be irresistible, in favour of organic changes in the constitution—changes of which he did not undervalue the danger, but which, in those days and under such circumstances, and upon the principle of the *salus populi being the suprema lex*, he yet might, with all these dangers, consider as necessary to the salvation of the country.

Much would be required before the country could be restored to her former position; but he looked upon the repeal of the new tariff and the new corn law as an indispensably necessary precursor of any other means of relief. The course that was being at present pursued could not, in his opinion, fail to end in ruin and revolution.

Lord RIFON gave credit to the motives of the Earl of Stanhope, but vindicated their lordships from any imputation of indifference to the sufferings of their fellow subjects; and after briefly demonstrating the impossibility of entering upon such an investigation as that proposed through the cumbersome machinery of a committee of the whole House, denied that either Sir R. Peel or himself had, since their present tenure of office, expressed a single sentiment with reference to the restrictive system which they had not formerly avowed. Experience had proved that the removal of the prohibition on foreign manufactures had produced no ill effect; and although the price of meat had fallen, it would be absurd to attribute that to the importation of 3126 cattle—a large proportion of which were unfit for food. The noble lord then, after shortly noticing the repeal of the new corn laws, the tariff, and the discouragement of machinery, as recommended by Lord Stanhope, intreated their lordships not to consent to any such inquiry as that suggested, as of necessity ending in the disappointment of those whose distress was so much to be lamented.

Lord BEAUMONT expressed his regret that no positive intimation had been given of the views of government upon the subject of the corn laws, and denounced the Anti-corn-law League, whose increasing power, he feared, it would soon be difficult to resist.

He believed that the existing panic did not arise from a want of confidence in the ability or integrity of the government, but from a doubt of the strength of the government to resist the gigantic and increasing power that was rising up in the country against it. It was impossible for their lordships to disguise from themselves the fact that there was a giant monster daily increasing in might—the Anti-corn-law League; and he thought that the government would scarcely do their duty unless they attempted to crush in the shell this dragon which threatened them. On looking over some of the circulars issued by the League, he could not but entertain a strong suspicion that the writers had violated the law; indeed, some of them appeared to be blasphemous. If, however, the government would do nothing against the movements of the League, it was but right to expect that they should do something to protect the remaining interests of the agricultural body.

The alterations made last session had been of too wholesale a character, and by the panic they caused had produced a most ruinous effect. If the change were a final one the farmers might submit to a small loss, and be again prosperous; but the uncertainty as to further concessions on the side of free trade would paralyse their exertions. The great object was to obtain a pledge from the ministry with regard to their future conduct—to ascertain whether they would stand by the present law or not. He strongly advocated the revival of an assize for bread, so that what was lost in the price of corn might be gained in the price of bread; and declared his intention of supporting Lord Stanhope's motion, as one object of it was to amend the condition of the labourer, whose prospects now appeared almost desperate.

Lord BROUGHAM ridiculed the tone taken by Lord Stanhope on the subject of free trade, as if it had been the principle on which all legislation of late years had been conducted, and regretted, on the contrary, that protection and prohibition were still so much in force. But little, it at any rate seemed, need be feared from the advance the new tariff upon cattle had made in that direction. The noble lord (Lord Beaumont) seemed mightily afraid of the Anti-corn-law League.

I cannot, however, suffer the mention of the Anti-corn-law League and its proceedings, for the first time since the last summer that I have had the opportunity of saying a word upon it, to be made in this house without expressing my entire and hearty concurrence with the disapprobation expressed at many of the proceedings of that body by my noble friend not now in his place, who was lately at the head of her Majesty's government, and who from his temporary illness is not here to state it. I am on that account more anxious to state my entire concurrence in his reprobation of some of the means used by that body. I differ from my noble friend in his opinion of its object,

for I go much further in desiring to see the repeal of the corn laws than my noble friend; but I desire to express my most pointed disapprobation of the means taken by many of the persons connected with that association; and, my lords, I am the more anxious to state this, because I consider that those means are most prejudicial to a good cause. If any thing could retard the progress of their doctrines—if anything could raise obstacles to the course of improvement in the laws respecting provisions and the general laws which they most justly oppose, it would be the exaggerated statements and violence of some of those connected with that body—the means adopted by them at some of their meetings to excite—happily they have not much succeeded—to excite discontent and breakings out into violent measures in different parts of the country; and, above all, I cannot discharge my duty to your lordships, and to my own conscience, if I do not express the utter abhorrence and disgust with which I have noted some men—men clothed with sacred functions—who have actually, in this very metropolis of a British and a Christian community, and in the middle of the 19th century of the gospel of grace and peace, not scrupled to utter words to which I will not at present, for obvious reasons, more particularly allude, but which I abhor, detest, and scorn, as being calculated to produce effects—I will not say they have produced them—but calculated to produce the taking away of innocent life.

The noble lord, then, after commending the peaceful and forbearing conduct of the people under great privations, professed his distrust of all the measures which had been suggested as a means of relief, and deprecated the notion of commencing so bootless and endless an inquiry as that proposed.

Lord RADNOR contended that the League had been unjustly accused of any connexion with the sentiments to which Lord Brougham had called attention, and was convinced that by their zeal and intelligence much good had been effected. The same degree of distress as that they now lamented had before existed, and might be clearly traced to the operation of the corn laws, from the repeal of which, and not from a return to the antiquated specifics of former years, relief was to be expected. His advice to the government was to take some steps to abolish the corn laws altogether. They had done all the mischief by their legislation, and the best thing they could do would be not to make new laws, altering the sliding scale, but to get rid of the corn laws altogether.

Lord ASHBURTON avowed himself a moderate free trader, as he had always been, but he was not so absurd as to advocate a removal of all restrictions without reference to the peculiar circumstances of the country. Under our artificial circumstances, with a huge national debt, it was impossible to adopt a purely level system of free trade. We were not allowed, in this country, to grow beet root for sugar, nor yet tobacco, which might be profitably cultivated, because to do so would affect a portion of our revenue, which we could not afford to lose.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE, as a free trader, said that he was opposed to differential and protective duties, but did not suppose that the abolition of monopoly involved the abolition of necessary revenue duties.

Earl STANHOPE replied; and on a division his motion was rejected by 26 to 4.

**THE WASHINGTON TREATY.**—Lord Campbell enquired of the government whether they intended to introduce a bill into parliament for the purpose of carrying out the 10th article of the treaty of Washington, an article which he highly approved of? It was respecting the delivering up of persons who had committed crimes in England or America. Unless a bill were introduced that article would be useless in this country, as, by the common law of the land, no person could be given up. Lord Ashburton said, that although he was not so well acquainted with the law as the noble lord, yet he knew very well that unless an act of parliament were passed the 10th section of that treaty would be useless. He had written to the American secretary stating this. Therefore there was no doubt that her Majesty's government intended to introduce an act for the purpose of carrying out that article. Although it required an act in this country, in America it did not.

On Friday night a question from the Marquis of Clanricarde brought on a conversation, in which the Duke of Wellington explained that the motion of which he had given notice had no reference to political matters, and would involve no discussion, except as to the merits and services of the military force employed in the recent events. Every paper should be produced, from the breaking out of the insurrection to the latest proceedings of the army of Afghanistan.

On Monday night the Duke of WELLINGTON, in presenting the papers respecting our military operations in Afghanistan, postponed his motion for thanks to the troops employed there, from Thursday until Monday next.

The noble duke also, in reply to Lord MONTAGUE, stated, that it was not the intention of government to introduce any measure for the alteration of the bank charter, or on the subject of banking, during the present session. A continuation of the act by which the operation of the usury laws was relaxed as to bills of three months' date was, however, contemplated.

The Earl of RIFON, in reply to the Earl of Clarendon, intimated that the government intended to bring in a bill for regulating the erection of public buildings in the metropolis.

## LAW OF LIBEL.

Lord CAMPBELL then, according to notice, moved that a select committee be appointed to consider the law of defamation and libel. He explained the extreme deficiency of the present law, its exemption from improvement, while both the commercial and the criminal code had been rendered more simple and humane, and the anomaly it presented as to the punishment adjudged to written, in comparison with spoken libels. This he illustrated by several examples; and, after speaking in high commendation of the leading journals of the public press, lamented that the law was as powerless to protect them from



the attacks of those whose crimes they exposed as it was to repress publications which existed only by pandering to a vitiated taste for scandal. As instances of the inadequacy of the present law, he adduced a case in which, in despite of the most conclusive evidence as to the truth of the statement, a verdict had been given against a journal which had denounced an escaped convict, and also that in which his lordship had, while Sir John Campbell, conducted the defence of the *Times* in an action for alleged libel upon a person accused of having been implicated in a conspiracy to defraud the principal continental bankers of Europe. With respect to a most important point—proof of publication—the decisions were most contradictory, while in punishing the offender the law took no account of his comparative culpability, but awarded the same sentence whether the libel was the result of false information, or wilfully and corruptly committed. He proposed the appointment of a committee only from diffidence of his own opinions, but was convinced that private character would be best protected, the liberty of the press secured, and its licentiousness restrained, by rendering the law more humane, more certain, and more in accordance with prevailing opinion.

Lord BROUGHAM seconded the motion, and was content to go into the committee, although he thought the subject might have been better treated if brought forward as a bill. Whatever might be the result, he trusted that an end would be put to the impunity now enjoyed by a most pernicious portion of the press.

The LORD CHANCELLOR also regretted that the reforms and amendments intended to be effected had not been embodied in a specific measure, but neither he nor Lord Denman opposed the appointment of a committee, and the motion was accordingly agreed to.

The Attorneys and Solicitors bill was then read a second time; and the House adjourned.

### The Complete Suffrage Movement.

The usual weekly meeting of the committee was held at the office, Waterloo street, Birmingham, on Monday last, when the following business was attended to:—

Mr Albright announced that two pamphlets were in the press, and would be ready at the Depot, 4, Crane court, Fleet street, London, for circulation in a few days. The pamphlets were, "A Defence of the Working Classes," by W. S. Crawford, M.P.; and the "Rise and Progress of the Complete Suffrage Movement," being a reprint from the *Eclectic Review*.

"Resolved—That the Rev. Thos Spencer of Bath, Messrs E. Miall of London, D. G. Rowlinson of Birmingham, and the Secretary, be appointed a committee to examine and report upon the various tracts which are offered to this council for publication."

The Chairman brought under the consideration of the council the following notice which had been given in the house of Commons:—"Mr Sharman Crawford. To move on the 23rd Feb, for leave to bring in a bill to secure the full representation of the people, and to shorten the duration of parliaments." After considerable discussion it was unanimously resolved—

"That this council do respectfully request Mr Crawford to postpone his motion from Thursday, 23rd of Feb., to Thursday, 9th March; and to bring it forward on the latter day, or as near thereto as possible."

"Resolved—That the abstract of the bill, as now finally amended, be adopted, and immediately published; and that the sub-committee formerly appointed to prepare the bill be instructed to complete the same with the alterations made by the late conference; and that the same be printed prior to its introduction into parliament."

Letters were read from W. S. Crawford, Esq., M.P.; from W. Fuller, Bishop's Auckland; Henry Edgar, Coventry; Wm Hollis, Cheltenham; Wm Tullis, Markinch; Rev. J. E. Davis, Gloucester; A. Newton, Ripon; Rev. H. Solly, Tavistock; Henry Martin, Chatham; R. M. Hawkes, Falmouth. From J. Jarrold of Norwich, stating "there is a general desire in Norwich to have a union formed, for which we have just held a preliminary meeting; and I think prospects are very encouraging. It is thought the course adopted by Mr Sturge and his friends at the late conference will be productive of great good." From Huddersfield, from which we give an extract as follows:—"We have rallied our friends, and are anxious to go on doing good in the cause by circulating tracts as far as we judiciously can."

The following letter was also read:—

Aberdeen, Feb. 6th, 1843.

"GENTLEMEN—At the meeting of the Aberdeen Complete Suffrage association held this evening, your proposed tract depot was brought under notice by the secretary, and unanimously approved of, as one of the most important means that could be adopted in order to carry out successfully the objects of the complete suffrage movement."

"In communicating to you this gratifying fact, and especially as you have solicited the opinions of the supporters of the cause on the subject, I shall trouble you with a few suggestions, which, if acted on, may tend to make the circulation of the tracts more generally useful than in other circumstances they could be expected to realise."

"When the temperance movement was introduced to the north of Scotland in the year 1833, the agitation of the cause was chiefly confined to the city of Aberdeen; but in 1839, deputations and lecturers were sent to different parts of the country, and societies were formed in a good many localities. These lecturers and deputations from the parent society generally carried with them a number of temperance tracts, which were sold at the public meetings, or committed to the care of some trustworthy persons, in whose activity and honest perseverance the lecturers had confidence. By these means an enlightened public opinion in favour of the principles

on which the movement was based, was partially created. The next step was the concentration of this opinion, with a view to the extension of the movement to every part of the north of Scotland. After much deliberation, the promoters of the temperance enterprise resolved upon the formation of a general union of all the societies in the north, through the agency of which lecturers might be multiplied, and funds raised also for the support of a temperance council and a still more extensive circulation of tracts. That union was formed in the year 1840, Sir Francis Mackenzie, of Gairloch, patron. In the course of the first year it included 40,000 members, and was enabled to send lecturers into every part of the north of Scotland, and subsequently to the islands of Orkney and Zetland. By and by, however, the contributions and subscriptions to the funds fell off, and but for the following scheme, devised and carried out by the secretary of the union and an executive council, the lecturers must have been withdrawn:—The north of Scotland was divided into certain districts, each district comprising a given number of societies. A circular was addressed to the societies, offering to supply them with the services of an efficient lecturer, for one, two, or three months, provided they would raise amongst themselves as much money as would pay his salary and expenses. The offer being accepted in most cases, lecturers were sent, and the result was, that the various societies, thus made responsible for the salary or payment of the lecturers, felt themselves under a stronger obligation to make efforts for getting up public meetings and selling or circulating tracts, than they would have felt had the lecturers been sent down by the executive council in Aberdeen, and paid out of the general fund. In this way the union have been enabled to keep up the agitation, and are likely to do until the people are thoroughly imbued with the temperance feeling. It has been found, too, that little or no difficulty has been felt in raising the funds to pay the lecturer; while instances could be stated in which a profit by his labours has actually been made, which enabled the societies, thus fortunate, to send him to many places in their neighbourhood where, but for this scheme, his voice would never have been heard."

"Now, it occurs to me that what has been done by 'the North of Scotland Temperance Union,' might be more extensively carried out by the 'National Complete Suffrage Union.' At first, as has already been partially done, general lecturers would be required to run over the ground, so as to excite the people to consider the subject. Those lecturers should have a good supply of tracts with them, to be put into circulation at every public meeting and otherwise, as circumstances might suggest. Several lecturers of different orders of talents should be appointed. The union above referred to, in acting on this principle, sent into the field—first, a most popular and industrious man, naturally adapted to overcome physical difficulties, and qualified to win the affections of those who came to hear him; second, a matter-of-fact lecturer, possessed of strong common sense, and well furnished with statistical information; and, third, a lecturer who combined as far as possible the qualifications of the other two. The same principle would apply in the case of the National Complete Suffrage Union; and, although the machinery may at first sight appear somewhat complex and theoretical, I can assure you, on the experience of the Northern union, that it is quite practical, and singularly efficient. All such unions must proceed on the principle of adapting the means to the end, if they really wish to be successful; and it is only by systematic, not fitful, efforts that our objects are to be accomplished. The importance of systematic effort cannot be too frequently, nor too forcibly, pressed on the consideration of the friends of the complete suffrage movement; and in no points of detail is it more indispensable than in the employment of lecturers and the circulation of popular tracts. I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"The Council of the JAMES H. WILSON.  
National Complete Suffrage Union,  
Birmingham."

NORTHAMPTON.—On Monday evening, the 13th inst, Mr H. Vincent delivered the first of two lectures in the assembly room, at the Peacock hotel, to a large and attentive audience. After an able and soul-stirring address, occupying upwards of two hours, the O'Connorites (who had mustered their greatest strength on this occasion) commenced a serious attack upon the public character of the lecturer, and in no measured terms denounced him and the body of complete suffragists in the most virulent and intemperate manner. A variety of irrelevant questions were put—the whole of which gave rise to a fresh burst of brilliant oratory from Mr Vincent, that effectually repelled the charges so unfairly and unmanly imposed upon him. However, the obstinate malignity of the O'Connorites was not satisfied; John M'Farlane, their leader, rose and proposed the following resolution:—"That this meeting considers that the conduct of the paid advocates of the people's rights, ought to be such as would show that they are actuated by a sense of the justice of the principles they profess to teach, and not from a hope of mere sordid gain; and this meeting, judging of the recent conduct of Henry Vincent by the above standard, is of opinion that he is deserving of censure, and unworthy the confidence of the people." After some difficulty, it was seconded, when the Rev. T. White, a dissenting minister, proposed the following amendment:—"That it is the opinion of this meeting, the honesty and integrity of Henry Vincent in the suffrage movement is not at all depreciated by the calumniating statements of John M'Farlane; we, therefore, repose the highest confidence in him;" which being seconded, was put to the meeting, and carried by a very large majority, the resolution being thus negatived, much to the chagrin of its supporters.

SUDBURY.—During the last week Mr Vincent has delivered three lectures in this borough on the principles of complete suffrage, and, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, was listened to on each occasion by a large and respectable audience. On the first occasion the Rev. R. Verdon took the chair, and delivered an animated address—"If it were asked why he, a minister of religion, took the chair at such a meeting, he would reply by stating that it was the duty of the faithful minister of Christ to raise his voice against oppression and wrong, and

to sympathise with the hungry, the ragged, the houseless, and the oppressed. He thought ministers of religion, above all others, ought to be foremost in vindicating the rights of oppressed humanity, and he felt that he should not be performing his duty aright if he did not do all in his power to aid the complete suffrage movement." Mr Vincent's addresses were much applauded, and produced a great impression; and a vote of thanks was awarded him at each meeting. The addresses have done much good in Sudbury. Mr Vincent fearlessly exposed and denounced the terrible system of bribery and corruption which had brought this borough to the verge of dissolution, and it was pleasing to find that those parts of his addresses were loudly cheered. There is little doubt that the borough will be disfranchised.

LEICESTER.—At the monthly meeting of the Leicester Complete Suffrage association, held on Tuesday evening last, Mr John Collier in the chair, a discussion took place on the best means of rendering the association more effective. In opposition to the proposal that the town be divided into twenty districts, each district having a separate committee and secretary, for the purpose of thoroughly canvassing the borough, it was contended the seven wards into which the town was already divided by the Reform bill would be the least cumbrous plan to put in operation. After a good deal of discussion, Mr Billson proposed the following names as a sub-committee:—Messrs J. T. Collier, Parker, Joseph Bedells, Pegg, Manning, Clarke, Crossley, and Stevenson. The names of Messrs J. Ayer, C. Billson, and J. Waddington, were afterwards added, and the motion agreed to. Mr Waddington subsequently moved, and Mr Billson seconded, "That a meeting be held on Feb. 29, to receive the report of the sub-committee, and prepare nomination lists of the committee for the ensuing year. After some discussion this was put by the chairman and carried. Mr Billson then read a letter from Mr Henry Vincent, stating that he hoped to be here in a week or ten days, to deliver lectures on complete suffrage. A vote of thanks to the chairman was then proposed, when the meeting separated.

BERKSHIRE.—This part of the kingdom is, perhaps, less acted upon than many by the suffrage movement; yet even in this and adjoining counties, there are, as we well know, many good men and true, who are watching with silent anxiety the course of events, and bide their time; and who, when the hour of action comes, will make themselves felt by their influence on society. Scarcely a week has passed in which we have not received hints and suggestions, and the expression of wishes that we should devote some space to the exposition of the character and objects of the Suffrage association; and we have taken the last open week before the meeting of parliament to notice the subject, and to offer some practical suggestions.—*Oxford Chronicle*.

Friday being the anniversary of the marriage of her Majesty, "the morning was ushered in by merry peals" from the bells of St George's chapel and the parish church of St John, Windsor. Her Majesty gave a grand dinner party in the evening in the oak-room, covers being laid for twenty-seven. At the conclusion of the banquet her Majesty and Prince Albert, with many distinguished visitors and members of the royal household, proceeded to the red drawing-room, where a grand concert of vocal and instrumental music took place.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO IRELAND.—It may be considered certain, we believe, that, if no great intervening obstacle arise, her Majesty will visit Ireland in the course of the ensuing summer; and it is highly probable, we think, that, as has been stated in some journals, her tour will include the Giant's Causeway.—*Londonderry Journal*.

The new governor-general of Canada, with his family and suite, will leave this country in the Columbia on the 4th of March; berths have been taken for the accommodation of his excellency. We are happy in making this announcement, as showing the wishes of government in taking advantage of the speediest and most regular means of crossing the Atlantic.—*Standard*.

REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.—A reduction is about to take place in the British forces in Canada, to the extent of three regiments, which are to return immediately to this country. The King's dragoon guards will be one; the other two will be selected from those regiments whose length of colonial duty will give them the preference. Other reductions are decided on, or in progress, in accordance with the intimation conveyed in the royal speech.—*United Service Gazette*.

PRIVATE BILLS.—The following resolutions regarding private bills were delivered from the house of Commons on Saturday:—"That the House will not receive any petition for private bills after Friday, the 24th of this instant February—that no private bill be read the first time after Friday the 24th of March next—that this House will not receive any report of such private bill after Friday the 26th day of May next."

THE LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL.—Most important alterations are proposed in the Law of Evidence Improvement bill that has been introduced into the house of Lords by Lord Chief Justice Denman, and which was considered in a committee of that House on Thursday night. The preamble states, that "whereas the inquiry after truth in courts of justice is often obstructed by incapacities created by the present law, and it is desirable that full information, as to the facts at issue, both in criminal and civil cases, should be laid before the persons who are appointed to decide upon them, and that such persons



should exercise their judgment on the credit of the witnesses adduced, and on the truth of their testimony. Be it enacted," &c. The first clause then provides that witnesses are not to be excluded from giving evidence by incapacity from crime or interest. But this act is not to repeal any provision in 7 Will. IV., and 1 Vict. c. 26; and it is further provided that in courts of equity, defendant may be examined on behalf of the plaintiff, or any co-defendant, and that his interest in the cause shall not be an exception to his testimony. The second clause provides that in legal proceedings it shall not be necessary to state that jurors had made affirmation; and the third and last clause merely enacts that the act is not to extend to Scotland.

**CHINESE EDICT.**—The Canton papers contain an imperial edict in reference to the recent treaty. The following extract proves that the Chinese have more sense than we give them credit for:—

"From this epoch of a thorough free trade, there should be everlasting peace and harmony; your nation should also treat us with mutual, perfect sincerity; and certainly not again commence military operations, in direct opposition to heavenly principles; for not only have you already caused troubles and confusion in many provinces, but you must again come, seeking causes of quarrel and war; and just so, the coast and territories of the provinces of Canton, Fuhkeen, Teawan (Formosa), Chekeang, Keanguan, Shantung, Chile, and Shunteen (Peking), the barbarian vessels of war are not allowed to enter and frequent."

**EXPORTATION OF SPECIE.**—Specie to a very large amount is now exporting from Liverpool to the United States. The British and North American royal mail steamer *Caledonia*, which sailed on the 4th for Halifax and Boston, carried out above 100,000 sovereigns; and the *Acadia*, from the same port, had on freight not less than 300,000.—*Liverpool Albion*.

**EMIGRATION.**—We understand, from well-informed persons, that a large emigration of the working classes will take place this year to the United States. Already the passenger brokers are inundated with letters of inquiry from all parts of the United Kingdom, from parties wishing to emigrate. Among the parties preparing to quit the country are many spinners. A party consisting of 100 are about to emigrate together from Scotland. A considerable portion of this year's emigrants will proceed to New Orleans. The emigration to the Australian colonies does not promise to be extensive this year. The stream of emigration will run, as usual, towards the United States and Canada.—*Liverpool Albion*.

### Postscript.

Wednesday, February 15th, 1843.

THANKS TO THE ARMY AND NAVY.

In the house of Commons last night Lord STANLEY proposed a vote of thanks to the army and navy in China in rather a long speech, which, however, presents no points worth extracting. He concluded by cautioning the mercantile world against a too sanguine expectation of immediate results to our commerce from the opening of markets in China.

Lord PALMERSTON seconded the motion. He gave especial credit to our officers for their restraint of all license on the part of the troops—a forbearance which had much conduced to establish among the Chinese a favourable opinion of, and disposition towards, the British. He agreed in deprecating premature speculation for the markets of China; but expressed his persuasion that in process of time a considerable exchange of produce would take place between the two countries. Meanwhile he rejoiced that long years of misuse had not impaired the efficiency of the British forces—that their swords, though they had rested in their scabbards, had not rusted there.

After a short debate, in which Sir C. NAPIER, Sir G. STAUNTON, Mr HUME, and Sir R. PEEL, took part, the vote was passed, including by name Sir Hugh Gough, Sir W. Parker, Sir Gordon Bremer, and Generals Lord Saltoun, G. Burrell, Sir R. Bartley, and Sir J. H. Schoede.

HEALTH OF TOWNS' BILL.

Mr MACKINNON moved for leave to introduce a bill prohibiting interments within the limits of towns. A pamphlet, he said, had been put forth accusing him of a wish to injure the dissenters; any such wish he wholly disclaimed. The pamphlet had been industriously circulated, probably through the agency of persons who now made a great profit of a few acres situate in the heart of large towns. He proposed to exempt certain suburban cemeteries from the operation of the bill. The principle of his measure must sooner or later be carried, though he felt that there was a good deal of difficulty in the details.

Mr HUME seconded the motion. The measure was very important to the health of the poor, and would require the best assistance of the government to uphold it against probable opposition from private interests. The attention of government to the whole question of drainage was urgently needed.

Sir J. GRAHAM approved the principle of the bill, but had great doubts about details. Careful inquiries were now in progress on the part of the government, but as no measure had yet been digested by them, he would not oppose the introduction of this bill. Hoping, however, as he did, for further information which might enable the government, perhaps in this very session, to bring forward a measure of its own, he must decline to undertake for its co-operation in the present bill. As to drainage in general, he intended to recommend the appointment of a commission of men of science, for the purpose of fully considering and advising upon this matter.

Some objections were made by Mr HAWES and Mr ESCOTT, but Mr MACKINNON persevered, and leave was given to introduce the bill.

DISTRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

The House then proceeded to the adjourned debate on Lord Howick's motion respecting the distress of the country.

Mr EWART laid before the House a series of details, from which he inferred the evils of the restrictive system. He afterwards cited a variety of returns for the purpose of showing the increased competition which our manufactures have now to sustain from those of the continent, and the consequent necessity of some measures which may enable our manufacturers to produce at a cheaper rate by a reduction in the duties on raw materials—namely, the duties of customs and excise—and by a diminution in the price of food. He pressed, therefore, for the repeal of the corn laws; and expressed his hope that Sir R. Peel would not long be able to resist that repeal.

Mr LIDDELL apprehended that this motion was neither more nor less than a question of confidence or no confidence in the government. He controverted the inferences drawn by Lord Howick from the depression of Sunderland, attributing its condition not so much to the general circumstances of the times, as to the rapid growth of the neighbouring ports of Hartlepool and Seaham, which had attracted a great portion of the coal trade and coal craft, once the staples of Sunderland. He attested the successful working of the new duty on coal. He denied the assertion that no part of the existing distress was owing to the poor law; on the contrary, that law had most grievously increased the rates. One of the leading causes of the present distress was the series of bad harvests preceding the last year. Another, and still subsisting one, was the derangement of American credit, and the vast consequent diminution in our commerce with the United States. He would not now enter upon what was not the proper question before the House—the question of the corn laws. On that head he was satisfied with the declarations of Sir R. Peel. It was in vain to assail that right hon. baronet's character either by insinuation or by direct attack; the gentlemen of England would rally round him, and support him by their voices and their votes.

Lord WOLSELEY denied the alleged confidence of the agriculturists in the minister, and affirmed the existence of considerable distress in his own county.

Mr GALLY KNIGHT combated the opinion expressed by the mover, that the distress was unconnected with over production.

Mr WARD called on government to relieve distress by liberal measures. He did not regard this as a party question. It would not do for the minister to let his opponents have only the benefit of his principles, and give his adherents the benefit of his practice. He showed a progressive increase in the number of untenanted houses, and of unemployed persons at Sheffield, and a proportionate increase in the outlay there for the maintenance of the destitute. The distress was now extending upward, to those classes in the town who had heretofore considered themselves above its range, and, through them, to the agricultural parishes, upon which the workmen were driven back as paupers. Was this a state of things into which the House would refuse to inquire? Would the House tell the people it had no power to assist them? Unhappily, it had, at all events, the power to do them mischief. The poor cried out that they had no chance to obtain justice till they should be properly represented in parliament; and who could gainsay that? It was represented that the mover would have done better to make some definite proposal. He thought so too. He then criticised the speech of Mr Gladstone, whom he charged with having slipped into involuntary admissions with respect to the corn law, embarrassing to himself, and by no means palatable to his leader or his party. Much was said about the impracticable tariff of other states, for instance, that of America. But those tariffs were produced by your own; America imposed duties of 34 per cent.; but your own present duty on American corn amounted to about 90 per cent. on the cost of that article in that country.

Mr D'ISRAELI apprehended the real question to be, whether our markets could be so extended as to afford relief for our distress? There were three districts of markets—those of Europe, of the East, and of the New World. The British government had failed in their endeavour to establish commercial treaties in Europe; but their failure did not arise from our own fiscal regulations, nor from any indisposition of the European powers to negotiate such treaties. A treaty with France would do more for Sheffield than both the Americas; the demand for English cutlery in France would soon people the untenanted houses of Mr Ward's constituents. A treaty of commerce might have been obtained with Brazil, and why had it not? The Sovereign of Brazil had felt himself slighted, if not insulted, though perhaps unintentionally, by the foreign office of England; our nation, alone of all the European powers, having neglected to send a special mission to Rio on the Brazilian sovereign's coming of age. Again, in Spain, we had raised a general feeling against England by our constant interference with Spanish dissensions. Then as to your Eastern markets. There, neither diplomacy nor special missions would help you to commercial treaties. But the population of the East would give you, in the Levant, in India, and in China, a vast outlet for your goods, provided you would put your monetary system on a proper footing. The noble lord said something must be done presently. A treaty with France would create a trade whose exchange would "presently," amount to £12,000,000 sterling per annum. That would do much more for our country than repealing corn laws and examining witnesses in a committee of the whole House. Before such a committee could have got half through its work the evil would be past. The great

barrier to the progress of those principles of free trade now so loudly asserted by the advocates of this committee had been in their own Reform bill. Those principles had been originated by Mr Pitt in 1787, had been opposed by Mr Fox and the whigs, had been advanced by Mr Wallace, Mr Huskisson, and Lord Ripon, down to our time; and the Reform bill had then come in and checked their progress. As to the existing corn law, he did not pledge himself to assist for ever in maintaining it unaltered; he had not yet had sufficient experience of it to take such a resolution; but to this he would pledge himself—to assist in maintaining that preponderance of the landed interest which Lord John Russell himself had justified. He did not believe that the other great interest, that of our commerce, was in a hopeless state; but, at all events, he would not consent to a remedy for one class by the ruin of the other.

Mr ROSS replied to Mr D'Israeli, that the Reform bill could not have stopped the progress of free trade principles, seeing that no member representing a radical borough was an opponent of free trade. He could not go the length of those who opposed a tax on corn as if it were more immoral than a tax on timber. But he held it to be immoral to destroy the means of men's subsistence, and to cripple the resources of the industrious classes.

Mr BARNARD HORN denied that the distress of the country was attributable to the corn laws. When he had concluded, the debate was again adjourned.

THANKS TO THE ARMY AND NAVY.

In the house of Lords the Duke of WELLINGTON moved a vote of thanks to her Majesty's fleet and army for their services during the China war. The noble Duke gave a detailed narrative of their exploits, enlarged upon the advantages to be expected from the treaty which our success had extorted from the Emperor, and the admirable discipline, forbearance, and humanity of the troops.

Lord AUCKLAND had the more satisfaction in expressing his perfect accordance with the high praise which had been bestowed upon the forces, as he had selected Sir H. Gough and Sir W. Parker for the service.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE, Lord BROUGHAM, Lord HADDINGTON, and Lord MINTO, made a few observations, after which the resolutions were carried unanimously.

**FRANCE.**—The *Moniteur Algerien* of the 5th inst. announces that the intelligence received from the interior of the regency was of a satisfactory nature. General Changarnier, who was to have returned to Milianah on the 3rd, had chastised the tribes residing to the west of that town for their participation in the last insurrectionary movement, which was then completely appeased, in the province of Tittery. The Governor-General, favoured by the weather, appears to have experienced no obstacle to his march. He was, by the last accounts, on the limits of the territory where the insurrection had originated. Abdel-Kader had retired before him into the mountains bordering on the desert. The Duke D'Aumale was expected at Medeah on the 3rd. The Prince had traversed the southern parts of the province in every direction, and executed two successful *rassias*.

**SPAIN.**—The *Times* of this morning publishes the following intelligence. The *Messenger* contains the following:—"The King's government having demanded of the Spanish government the disavowal of the imputations made by the ex-political chief of Barcelona, M. Gutierrez, against the French consul, M. de Lesseps, the official *Gazette* of Madrid of the 10th inst contains this disavowal, under the form of a letter addressed to the Minister of the Interior by the Minister at War, and of which the last paragraph is couched in the following terms:—"Consequently the government of her Majesty, which ever acts with justice and impartiality, deems it just to declare that the assertion made by the political chief was not accurate, and had not, without doubt, any other foundation than the rumours circulated by persons flying from Barcelona—rumours which the inquiries of the Captain-general had dissipated." The Regent has ordered to be remitted to the city of Barcelona the remainder due of the forced contribution. The journals of the 8th contain General Seone's letter to the municipality and the Chamber of Commerce, announcing this fact."

**THE LEAGUE.**—We understand (says the *Chronicle*) that the Chairman and several of the most active members of the council of the League have arrived in London, and have already been in communication with the leading friends of the cause, for the purpose of devising the requisite means for carrying on an active agitation throughout the various districts in the metropolis.

**WOOD PAVING.**—Sir Peter Laurie's anti-wood-paving crusade is the only other subject of interest in the morning papers. At the meeting of the court of Commissioners of Sewers yesterday, the worthy baronet moved the following resolution:—"That it is the opinion of the Court that the wood-paving in the Poultry is dangerous and inconvenient to the public, and ought to be at once taken up and replaced with granite paving." But few of the commissioners, however, appeared to sympathise with his views, as "the previous question" moved by Mr Jones, was carried by a large majority.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE, THIS DAY.

The market is as dull as possible; in fact, scarcely anything is doing, and to make sales lower prices must be taken. The supply of both English and foreign is very small.



## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"James Humphrys" declined.

"P." The case brought under our notice is, alas! but one of a thousand. We have lifted up our voice against the principle involved in it, and we believe, with our correspondent, that Puseyism is by no means confined to the establishment.

A correspondent wishes us to deny the following statement, found in the *Manchester and Salford Advertiser*—"The *Nonconformist* and the *Tablet*, two of the religious newspapers, both of which have attained great popularity in their respective bodies, have appealed to their friends for subscriptions to assist them in carrying out their plans." The verbal truth of this statement cannot shield it from essential falsehood and malignity. In announcing to our readers, at the close of last year, our intention to enlarge the *Nonconformist*, we used the following words, upon which alone the statement of the *Advertiser* can be founded. "We are not ashamed to add, that any free donations that friends may be disposed to give for carrying out this plan, will not only be acceptable, but accepted."

Our Stirling correspondent is respectfully assured, that not the "quality" but the quantity of his communication excludes it from the *Nonconformist*.

The article on the case of Mr O'Neill next week.

"A Constant Reader." "Query—Can you inform a constant reader of your journal what was the exact reply made by Mr Moffat to a deputation of persons interested in the *Patriot*, who waited upon him previous to his departure, to get his name to some kind of document of approval of that paper. Was it, 'I shall sign nothing of the sort,' or, 'I don't like the *Patriot*,' or, 'This is a vile thing—a wicked thing,' or what?" [We cannot satisfy our Constant Reader—we never heard that such an application had been made—we know that a good deal of vamping up has of late been going on in the way of getting individual opinions favourable to the paper in question, to be made use of in some way hereafter; but we set the whole down as of just as much value as the long string of names and cases attached to Morison's pills, or any other nostrum of that sort.]

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## The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15, 1843.

### SUMMARY.

THE parliamentary phenomena of the present session were, up to Monday evening, of a decidedly novel kind; for it would appear as if imposture were ashamed of its own lie. There has been just that air of sheepishness exhibited by a certain body sometimes spoken of as representative of the British public, which occasionally comes over public assemblies when the mask of pretension drops off—ere yet men are prepared to put on their "native semblance." It is a most unpleasant, and a rather undignified, dilemma in which to be fixed—obliged to let go the old falsehood before one is prepared to stand upon the new truth. "Holloa!" cries public opinion, "what do you do there? Some of you made a gap in the hedge—several of you got over the rails—scarcely one of you went in at the gate." Last session the whole clique got up with assumed solemnity and denied the charge. But as public opinion got a little nearer, and plainly detected the egregious cheat attempted to be passed off upon it, "the House," as it is called, became wonderfully red in the face; and now it is as quiet as possible. "Don't give up the gooseberries, Jack," says the elder urchin to the younger, whom he has seduced to roguery; "say you haven't got any." Jack would say so, willingly enough; but unfortunately his pockets stick out very much indeed, so that the fib would be completely thrown away. And he stands, therefore, with his hands thrust as far into the pocket-hole as the gooseberries will admit them, looks public opinion hard in the face, and says nothing. This seems to be the real "ailment" of the legislature. It is found out—it cannot deny—it will not confess—it stands stock-still, and with a very cool answer to the accusations of the middle class—the anti-radical, commercial reformers, says in a sulky tone, "Very well! why don't you turn me out?"

On Wednesday last the House of Commons was counted out. On Thursday—but really it is unnecessary to proceed thus formally, for debate there has been none, and even the conversations have been barren of interest. We shall best consult the taste of our readers by giving, in as few words as possible, the result. Sudbury, then, is to be disfranchised, because, "whereas the franchise is a trust," &c. Why, so is private property "a trust"—and it is also "a right." The franchise is a trust just in the same sense as great abilities, high station, commanding influence, great wealth, are such. If any more than this be meant, then we ask, Who delegated office to the body of

trustees, and to what constituency are they responsible? Our present electoral class—in whose name and on whose behalf are they acting? Cannot this whiggism be called to account? What! is there not one radical member prepared to move as an amendment, in the committee on this bill of disfranchisement, "Whereas, the franchise is a right, &c?" Well! we are also to have a measure of church extension—but not a new grant, to the church, of public money. Sir Robert Peel is convinced that our manufacturing population need increased religious culture—and in this view "the strike" confirmed him. So it did us. And it confirmed us, at the same time, in the utter uselessness, for the purpose of spiritual instruction, of an established priesthood, inasmuch as we could not but note the startling contrasts presented by the mobs of Lancashire and Yorkshire, where the clergy have no hold upon the people, to those of Canterbury, where they have—by the practices of the "turn-outs," to the deeds of "Swing"—by manufacturing, to agricultural insubordination. Sir John Nicholl has introduced his bill for the reform of ecclesiastical courts, which is intended to get rid of the superfluous barbarity and grotesqueness of these relics of the dark ages, retaining only so much of both as can be turned to profitable account. The measure is framed on the principle of Peel's sliding scale—that is, to surrender to the popular demand for reform all arrangements which have nothing but their harshness to recommend them. The Premier gave up superfluous "protection," and Sir John Nicholl will give up superfluous tyranny. So far as we have been able to understand the reform, ushered into notice by a passage in the royal speech, it means this, "We must manage these church jobs more dexterously—we must, indeed."

Lord Ellenborough has been the theme of more talk in parliament, since its opening, than all other subjects put together. These worm-eaten, deal gates of Somnauth, furnish a capital substitute for corn laws. Oh! that the discussion upon them could but be repeated periodically—members can be so prodigiously in earnest about them. The gates! The gates! And nothing but the gates! It reminds us—and, indeed, the House of Commons often does—of boys at school, who, to screen themselves from an expected charge, vamp up some grave accusation against a day-scholar in his absence, and try to divert attention from themselves by drawing it with more than usual zeal towards some unfortunate other, who is a long way off. And so Lord Ellenborough's folly is a godsend for all parties. They will debate about him and India, India and him, till not a syllable in his far-famed proclamation remains entire. So zealously will they tear it to pieces! But why? Chiefly because such a proclamation is not "anything to eat"—or in other words, a matter which can be turned to profitable account. It is a capital rag about which for party to fight its main battle—because it matters not a rush which may lose or which win.

On Monday night Lord Howick fired off the great gun of the opposition. It made a very long, but not effective report. It was answered by the Vice-president of the Board of Trade, who certainly exposed the utter meaninglessness of whig solemnity more successfully than has been done since their fall. Mr Gladstone gave a word of comfort likewise to anti-corn-law expectants, and led them to anticipate that in the natural course of events, as things must flow in the direction of free trade, some further and more liberal modification of the sliding scale may possibly be resorted to a dozen years hence. What a glorious prospect to those who have pledged themselves never to desist from agitating the question of corn law repeal! Mr Ferrand—Busfield we mean, he of Knaresborough, who used to lecture up and down the country in favour of slavery, and who mixes up with some grains of truth, sufficient nonsense to deprive it of the smallest weight, moved an amendment, which is far too long to insert, but which, in plain English, meant, "Sink your foreign trade to the bottom of the sea, and let 's all agree to pay as dearly as possible for everything we have." The debate was adjourned, and will probably continue through the remainder of the week. What will the free traders do? Lord Howick's motion will put them to the test.

The House of Lords has been taking it easy. Lord Stanhope raised a little debate, more by dint of his own folly than by the importance of the subject he mooted in the house, but the whole atmosphere of the upper chamber was decidedly anti-leagueish. Lord Brougham must needs go out of his way to chastise some members of the anti-corn-law body, and to read a lecture upon the impropriety of using strong language on any subject, but chiefly strong language affecting the character of the Duke. One or two useful law reforms are in progress, but on the whole, the public has no reason to fear any rash innovations from this quarter.

Whilst parliament is debating upon, but refusing to relieve, the distress of the country, that distress is making rapid strides. In agricultural districts matters have become as bad as bad can well be, and three-fourths of the farmers expect to be ga-

zatted before the close of the present year. The manufacturing districts are in a gloomier state than ever; gold is going out of the country to America, and capital is utterly unproductive. The state of the shipping interest is disastrous beyond all precedent, and all the various staples of the country give tokens of the progress of national decay. Under all circumstances, Mr Crawford has probably done wisely in resolving on bringing forward the "People's Bill of Rights" at an early period of the session. The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union have requested him, we perceive, to fix his motion for the 9th of March, and we trust every borough constituency will get up a requisition to its members to attend in their places that evening, and to vote for the introduction of Mr Crawford's bill. A fine opportunity now exists of developing the organisation of complete suffrage societies. Let a simple and respectful memorial be got up in every borough town, calling upon the members to sanction the introduction of the proposed Reform bill. Let the friends of complete suffrage make instant arrangements for canvassing every elector for his signature. The pulse of constituencies may thus unobtrusively be felt. The result may be communicated to the council at Birmingham, and the first necessary step will thus have been taken in preparation for the next general election.

### AS YOU WERE.

SOME two or three years ago, it may have been the reader's hap, for it was that of many, to gain the acquaintance of a man who made a considerable stir in society. He was a bustling itinerant—in appearance, a neutral salt (to borrow an expression from the chemist) compounded of Jew and rake in equal parts—a *tertium quid*, made up of "old clo" and "young buck." He was by profession a reviver of faded garments, and he certainly succeeded to admiration in putting a shining face upon every matter which he undertook. Great was the joy of half-pay officers and dissenting ministers, wherever he made his bow and explained his vocation. White seams disappeared in a trice. At a very trifling cost, and by enduring for a day or two a strongish smell of ox gall, habits thought to be "too bad" were made lustrous—and men went about as happy for the time being as if they had recovered for their garments the nap of youth. Ah! the uncertainty of all mortal expectations! In a day or two, our friend the itinerant usually decamped, leaving his friends to pay his bill. A shower or two of rain carried off, in little discoloured streamlets, the black reviver. Threadbare places showed themselves more threadbare than ever. Seams became most provokingly distinct—and between the gloss of unworn parts, and the hoary greyness of those which had seen better days, the contrast became so startling that the clothes which, by dint of care, might without this renovation have lasted a little longer, were thrown aside much sooner in consequence of it.

The little man above alluded to, we think a fair type of a whig government—and his "black reviver" of their parliamentary reform. The old representative system, with a stitch or two here and there, and an occasional brush, would probably have lasted some time yet. The country, however, was persuaded to try the renovating powers of whig reform. O! the glossiness of the surface! How brilliant everything looked!—better than new! Well! This lasted but a session or two. A rainy season set in. The new colours all faded—the old defects all re-appeared—and we now stand, not merely in old clothes, for that were at least not ridiculous, but in old clothes which we have been parading as really new. Of course, it is impossible to gauge with nicety a nation's sense of shame, or to ascertain the precise limits of its endurance—but one thing may be set down as certain, that when our representatives are themselves sick of playing the patriot, and are convinced that shining pretences do nothing more than bring to light and to notice, constitutional defects, then, the discarding of the system, as worn out, can be at no great distance. If clothes are thought to be not worth even black reviver, the time for parting with them is just at hand.

Seriously, it is quite impossible to mark the parliamentary proceedings of the present session, without having the conviction thrust upon the mind that the existing arrangement of things must soon give place to another. The House of Commons occupies a position clearly incompatible with a long maintenance of legislative authority. It is not only a pretence—but it is a pretence exposed. It professes to represent public opinion, legitimately ascertained—and its moral power rests upon the truth of that profession. If it embody not public opinion, it is nothing better than an elaborately organised falsehood—for it is all put together, complicated as it is, with an express view to that end alone. But so far is it from fairly representing the mind of the people, that it ceases to clothe itself even with the pretence. The bustle of the impostor is dropped. The House of Commons deems it no longer worth while to seem to be in sympathy with the people. It attempted something showy last session—but nobody was really deceived. It will now do nothing of the sort. It



is strong enough to dispense with tricks of party. It plainly says to the people—"Here we are, move us if you can."

There is a desperate coolness about the present House, which intimates pretty distinctly that since the antagonism between the people and parliament can no longer be concealed, no pains will be taken to keep up the appearance of cordiality between them. There is a sincerity about the present do-nothing air of the representative body which seems intended to preclude mistake. A fortnight, at the very commencement of the session, when all abroad is distress and ruin, spent without a single discussion of any moment; the House adjourning always at an early hour in the evening, and unable, on one occasion, to muster forty members—the quiet negatives put in by government, in reply to inquiries whether they intend to touch this question or to deal with that—utter carelessness as to party tactics, and utter absence of party excitement—these things prove, to our apprehension, the conviction in the mind of the aristocratic section, that all necessity for cant and pretence is gone by, and that it is shorter, more convenient, more intelligible, more dignified, to say at once "I won't," than to arrive at the same point, called, however, by another name, by a circuitous route of plausibility and profession. The country is unequivocally told to expect no relief from that quarter. The Premier gives us as distinct a warning to this effect, as can be given by a public man—and lest he should be misapprehended, the Vice-president of the Board of Trade reiterates the resolution of government. If any delusion exists as to the future, the cabinet, at all events, must be absolved from the blame of having excited it. If the House of Commons is yet believed to be impressible on the subject of free trade, such faith rests upon none of its recent proceedings—nay! it grows up in spite of them. The League, and the newspaper press, persist in saying that parliament *must* give way presently—parliament itself declares there is no *must* in the case, and is doing its best to convince the country that what it says it means, and will maintain.

The tone of the liberal press during the past week is both curious and instructive. The class whose opinions it may be understood to represent, seem to us to fear any admission as to the real evil under which they groan, far more than the evil itself. The landlord's parliament is too honest for them, and actually says, "No," when it does not mean "Yes." The middle classes, the anti-corn-law agitators, and the provincial newspapers, *proh pudor!* agree together in saying, "The House can't mean 'No,' doesn't mean 'No,' shan't mean 'No.' O that some one would deceive us and tell us that, although it says 'No,' it means 'Yes!' How long is this farce to last? What object is to be gained by keeping it up? Is there no manliness left to the country? Will it hanker after a lie? Even so. Then if it be so indeed, the lie will not only be given, but themselves also will be given up to strong delusion to believe it. Englishmen! is this the humiliation to which you will submit to stoop? And for what? Why must we be told to hope against hope, and persist in saying, "We shall soon succeed," when not the remotest chance of success appears within sight?

#### NOTHING BUT PEEL, AFTER ALL.

SOME of the metropolitan, and several of the provincial, papers have busied themselves during the week, in submitting Sir Robert Peel's declarations on the question of the corn laws to the process of exhaustion—in other words, in extracting from them all the comfort that they can by any ingenuity be made to yield. By the application to the several passages of his speeches which touch upon the subject, of ardent and sanguine hopes, and of great ingenuity, our fellow-labourers of the press have hit upon the conclusion that the Premier is preparing to display an after-mind in this matter—that he is himself convinced of the policy of total repeal; and that, if seriously pressed by the country, he will give it, if not during the present, at all events in the next session. They urge the League, therefore, to continue and to redouble their efforts—and they appear to show good reason for believing that Sir Robert will not be loath to yield; nay! that, in point of fact, he insidiously invites a gentle pressure from without.

We are far from disputing the phenomena of the case—but we think the practical conclusion founded upon them by our zealous free-trade contemporaries to be somewhat broader than the premises will bear. The liberal organs will not, we trust, take amiss from us a few reminiscences which they seem to have overlooked, but which we hold to be part and parcel of the question. We may be forgiven, then, for reminding these zealous and valuable coadjutors in a good cause, that the abolition of the corn monopoly is not with the League, as it may be consistently enough with those who have never seen so far, a question of degree, but of principle. The total repeal of the corn laws is pursued by this body, not as the *best* settlement, merely, of a much litigated question, but as the *only righteous* settlement of it. This, indeed, is the characteristic distinction of that confederacy—that it seeks justice

—seeks it, too, in the name of religion. It is quite evident, consequently, that what the Anti-corn-law League wants is, not a modification of the existing system of "protection," but an entire abrogation of it. It may be very well for our friends of the press to be looking forward to a low fixed duty. But they forget that the League does not sympathise with them in this respect—that in its judgment a fixed duty is a fixed injustice; and that, consequently, it will neither anticipate with pleasure, nor agitate for with earnestness, anything short of "total repeal."

Such being the case, the inquiry very naturally suggests itself, what object can the League gain by squeezing Sir R. Peel. Their very principle forbids them from seeking a fixed duty, and they are not likely to obtain a satisfactory sliding scale. But if, as every thing demonstrates, they are determined upon agitating for total repeal, we cannot but suspect that Peel's conversion, however desirable, would not by any means prove decisive. The honourable baronet, it is true, in a former turn, took a majority of his party with him. But without insisting upon the greater facility of doing this the first than the second time, we observe that the question upon which the change then turned was of an abstract character. The laws affecting the importation of corn and provisions are of a wholly different cast. They are chiefly economical. They affect rents. They were framed with this end in view, and they have answered. Pecuniary arrangements rest upon the basis of these laws—family settlements—and other substantialities. The conversion of Sir Robert to total repeal might be the signal for the conversion of some others—but not of the majority. The Premier might, possibly, add a hundred to the present band of repealers. The bulk of his own party would renounce him—the whigs would not adopt him. In short, the present House would quickly turn him out of office—and those who are now his masters would take affairs into their own hands. The Premier himself could not get what the League wants out of the present House of Commons. Why, then, should they agitate for him? All the squeezing in the world would not secure for them the ends they seek. They might spend a hundred thousand pounds in marshaling a sufficient array to satisfy the Prime Minister that a movement must be made, and when they shall have gained that, the aristocracy will see to it that they gain nothing but Peel after all.

#### THE STRIKE.

ITS HISTORY, CAUSES, AND CONSEQUENCES.  
(From a Manchester Correspondent.)

(We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions contained in these papers.)

#### XIV.

Friday, August 12, continued—Stockport—Invasion of Macclesfield; the Town eaten out—Rochdale—Expedition sent from it—Preston—Bolton—Extent of the Movement—How were the Middle Classes affected by the popular Movement?

THE Stockport people, with the strangers who had remained in town, met together on Waterloo road, at five in the morning, heard speeches, perambulated the town to see "all safe," and then set off on a march to Macclesfield.

At Hazle Grove the procession was reinforced by a large body of the silk weavers of that place. At Poynton the colliers turned out in hundreds to join the march, and before the moving mass had proceeded much further, a loud shout announced the junction of detachments from Hyde and Oldham. After casting off a small force at the joining of the Bollington and Macclesfield roads a force destined to turn out the hands at the former place, the mighty concourse moved on, and reached the end of its journey, and the commencement of its labours, before noon. Part of the silk weavers at Macclesfield were already out, and the hands at work were speedily "dismissed to their holidays."

A portion of the Stockport people had left the main body at Edgley, and had proceeded by the lower road, through Cheshire, Gatley, Styal, and Wilmslow, to Macclesfield. The mills and workshops were stopped at all the places passed through; and the main body was rejoined at Macclesfield late in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, the invaders and the invaded held a meeting on Park green. Fifteen thousand persons were present. It was resolved to stand out until the decision of a general delegate meeting, to be held in Manchester as soon as possible, was known. Some of the strangers were more than decided in their directions to the men of Macclesfield; they said, "Macclesfield must stand out; and if the people attempted to return to work before the decision, for which they had agreed to wait, was published, they would be forced out again in an hour by the brave men of Stockport, who would be ready to march the moment that a carrier pigeon, sent off by parties who would remain to see that Macclesfield did its duty, arrived to tell of the 'traitorous delinquency.'" This was the tyranny of the majority. The minority, however, did not quarrel with their new dictators.

The shopkeepers had to provide food for the hungry visitors. The men from Oldham had marched five and twenty miles, and were sharp set. The Hyde men said they were "welly clammed." The Stockport men came on their journey before breakfast. Therefore there was a brisk demand for eatables; a demand so far exceeding the supply, that the town, to use the expression

of one of its inhabitants, "was fairly eaten out." The invaders contented themselves with attacking loaves, and besieging bakers' shops. The readily bestowed succour ransomed the alarmed inhabitants. There were no soldiers within a quarter of a day's march, and five policemen constituted the whole "available means of defence" in the borough. Before leaving the town, the mob examined the interior of the lock-up, through which they were politely shown by the bowing authorities, to see if any of their friends were in "durance vile." Not finding any prisoners, the inspectors expressed their perfect satisfaction; declaring, at the same time, that "they would not be done again as they had been at Stockport," and, collecting their scattered forces once more, soon bid adieu to their polite and hospitable hosts.

At Rochdale "the work went bravely on." The meeting to be held at five o'clock in the morning took place; it was opened with singing. Several addresses were delivered; a female orator spoke very animatedly, and certainly gave the people some useful advice. Delegates were appointed to proceed into the northern parts of Lancashire, and into Yorkshire. The meeting, at the conclusion of the proceedings, formed in procession, and marched to Bacup, where all the mills were stopped, and a meeting, at which the usual resolutions were passed, was held. A party then proceeded on to Haslingden, and the towns in its neighbourhood; while the main division marched to Todmorden; and, the hands being found to be already out, merely halted to rest, and then returned home. It was afflicting to see the poor creatures struggling into their own town again. Covered with sweat and dust—foot-sore—worn out with exertion—they did not look like the men who, with heads erect and smiles upon their countenances, had marched forth by cock-crow, like an army to battle. Yet they were the very same, and, after a period of repose, resumed their look of determination, and seemed as enthusiastic as ever.

A brigade from Oldham visited Heywood and Rochdale during the day. Bolton was agitated; meetings were held anew; many of the mills were stopped; and it was generally expected that the town would be invaded by the "rough lads" of Bury and Heywood. In Preston a meeting was held in Chadwick's orchard. The two delegates from Ashton urged the people to strike immediately, and join the "national movement." It was resolved to do so. Before noon nearly all the mills had been stopped, and incursions into the country had been made by the turn-outs of Preston.

A host of meetings had been held all over the district. Hosts of movements, small and great, had been going on. Marching, meeting, deliberating, and pushing a-head, in every way, that circumstances might dictate, were the only occupations of the legion of workers. The strike was much extended. An area of 100 miles in circumference, the most densely populated portion of the empire, was boiling, and bubbling, and sending forth its living lava, to overrun, and render like itself, other and distant localities. A population of a million and a quarter was now immediately affected.

Mighty as the movement had become, it began thus early to show that it would accomplish nothing. As the sanguine felt their enthusiasm expand, and as they became more and more fixed in their determination to have "the charter and nothing less," the more prudent—the men with large families—the more timid and more distressed—clamoured more earnestly for wages, as the first step. The wage men and the charter men, as we shall see by-and-by, were at issue; and the very unity, which alone had enabled the turn-outs to succeed thus far, failed when the power they had raised up had to be wielded for the promotion of some end.

How were the middle classes of the disturbed districts affected by the movements of the operatives?

The middle classes, or, rather a very large majority of them, had for a long period shown much commiseration for the intense sufferings of the people. As "a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind," so, perhaps, the fact that their own losses and distresses had for some time been multiplying, may account, in part, for the increased sympathy shown by the middle towards the labouring portions of the community in the districts referred to. This fact may also show the reason why the short-sighted, and that portion of the trading class more immediately dependent upon the custom of the working population, exhibited a more lively regard for what they conceived to be the popular interest, than the richer tradesmen and the larger capitalists. The sympathy of the majority of the middle classes was not merely confined, during the existence of the general distress, to the establishment of soup kitchens, relief societies, and clothing clubs, but extended itself to an urgent demand for the abrogation of those remnants of feudalism, which, by general opinion, were considered to be the immediate causes in the production of popular destitution, and middle-class bankruptcy and ruin. A certain quantum of trade had been found sufficient to employ the people at remunerative wages, and to provide a profitable investment for the capital which must pay and sustain the labourer. A rapid falling off in trade, clearly traceable to laws which forbid its due and healthy extension, had kept throwing more and more labourers out of employment, and eating away the property of the tradesman and capitalist. It was natural, then, that a general desire for the removal of a grievance—at last coming to the very doors of men who had looked on with listless apathy in times when the working men were but too correctly predicting the disastrous results of the longer continuance of that very grievance—should exist. The many and urgent appeals made by the master manufacturers to the legislature, for the removal of all commercial restrictions, though



the enemy used the occasion to sow dissensions between workman and master, had inspired a great portion of the community with the hope that new channels would be thrown open for the dammed-up commerce of the country; and that thus a measure of relief, compared to which the most magnificent and extensive private charity was but a drop in the bucket, would be accorded. When the fine professions made in "the speech," were followed by the paltry peddlings of the Peel ministry, a general feeling of indignation and disappointment took possession of all who had looked to parliament for aid. The middle-class sufferers and sympathisers lost hope of the immediate chance of redress at the hands of men who sneered at the hourly confiscation of property by the decay of trade—who doubted and laughed at tales of suffering—who found the support of a hiring press in shouting down the cries of the famishing—and who, despite warning after warning, seemed determined to shut their ears to remonstrance, until distress drove the yet patient people to revolt. As hope in the legislature diminished, sympathy with the people increased. The sacrifices made to mitigate the increasing distress became greater and greater. Never can the amount voluntarily devoted by men whose property was fast losing value to the relief of their workmen—by working their mills at a ruinous loss, and by the distribution of money amongst the destitute, be fully ascertained; but it was enormous. But this sympathy, except in a few instances, did not extend actively beyond the physical wants of the people; there was a general and active sympathy with their moral cravings, as displayed in their wide spread demands for the removal of the source and spring of grievances—class legislation. The sympathy shown was praiseworthy in the highest degree—but it was not that of men who mourned over the griefs of their equals; it was that of masters, who felt for inferiors punished by a power superior to, and likewise injuring, themselves.

When the strike began, the millowners, as a body, cared very little for the compulsory stoppages. The shopkeepers at Ashton and Staleybridge showed some active sympathy with the turn-outs. They said, "the men cannot live upon their late wages; they ought to have a living for working for it; the unemployed ought to be employed; while the men act peaceably, we will aid in keeping them from starving, during the continuance of their effort to increase their wages." The shopkeeping and trading classes elsewhere, pitied the condition of the turn-outs, and seldom refused relief to the poor creatures who applied to them. Further sympathy with the strike was not shown—did not exist.

As political objects became more and more prominently connected with the movement, sympathy with the men turned into disapproval of their course. Every window broken by some foolish youth—every farthingworth of property anywhere destroyed—went to rouse, also, the opposition—open and direct—of property.

The turn-outs must live. Little had they beforehand; therefore thousands upon thousands were compelled to beg. Bands of men and women perambulated town and country. Every respectable householder was waited upon once, twice, five times, or twenty times, a day. Most of the turn-outs were civil and well-behaved, especially when it is remembered that many of them went hungry for twenty-four or thirty-six hours before they would go forth to solicit aid; and that the fire of famine shot from their anxious eyes, and animal instinct was perpetually battling with their sense of propriety and with their knowledge of right and wrong—and but the idle and the dissolute were rude and sometimes violent. Too many timid ladies and fastidious gentlemen got to regard a turn-out—as people were once wont to picture jacobins as men in red night caps and greasy shirts, destitute of breeches, and with unshorn chins—as a man who desired to live without work upon other people's property; a man whose demands it was dangerous to refuse, and who ought above all things to be sent to prison. These begging parties roused still further already frightened property and respectability.

Larger parties occasionally visited the squires and the seats of the nobility. A party of about 1,000, marching in strict discipline, and for the time "under arms," visited Trafford park, near Manchester, had an interview with the squire, walked round his garden, by his permission, did not commit the slightest mischief, and then quietly and peaceably marched away again. Another party left Stockport, and paid a visit to Tatton park, the seat of W. Egerton, Esq. They civilly asked for food; it was given to them, and they seated themselves upon the lawn, unpolluted, since the days of the civil wars, by such a "rank profanation." But the yeomanry here came and disturbed their meal; upon which they dispersed, split into smaller parties, and visited the neighbouring seats and mansions. Many similar visits were paid. The landowners were roused, and the yeomanry everywhere appeared in force.

Many singular alarms arose in the agricultural districts from the appearances of the turn-outs: these were dressed badly, their clothes were discoloured with the usual town shade, and their faces were blackened with many a day's town smoke, and disfigured by dust from the roads. It was fancied by the good, quiet, country people, here and there, that the men's intentions were as black as their faces or their clothes. Sometimes the poor fellows, more from ignorance than a wilful desire to do harm, would repose, half a dozen at a time, amongst the standing corn; and occasionally the turnip fields were slightly drawn upon. The weather was intensely hot, the corn was dry, why might not the marauders bring lucifer matches and throw them amongst the grain, nearly ready for the sickle? Absurd and improbable as it may appear, it is nevertheless true that a belief in the possibility of such an attempt generally existed. It was believed, too, that the potato fields would be resorted to very soon. Thus the farmers got alarmed.

At the beginning of the outbreak the magistrates, as was their duty, summoned the respectable inhabitants in their respective districts to be sworn in as special constables. At first few came. Some declined. Some said the government had persevered, despite repeated warnings, in bringing about popular tumults; and the government might now quell them. Others positively refused to act. As the affair proceeded, however—as men became alarmed—as property men got frightened—as doubt and uncertainty increased—men became special constables more readily. On Wednesday night there were 150 enrolled in Manchester. On Friday evening there were 3,000, most of whom were on constant active duty. Would it be fair to make the increase of the middle-class army of defence a test of the rapidly deepening feelings of the men of substance? But we must return to this part of the subject.

## General News.

### FOREIGN.

#### UNITED STATES.

The South American, Captain Bailey, has brought papers from New York to the 20th ult. They are almost destitute of interest. The most important event is the repeal of the Bankrupt bill, the measure for which had passed the House of Representatives and would be immediately submitted to the Senate. An attempt had been made at New Orleans to assassinate Mr Clay. The *New Orleans Bee*, of the 4th ult., says the citizens were thrown into consternation yesterday by a report that an attempt had been made to assassinate Mr Clay in the Supreme court. The true version of the story appears to be this:—While our distinguished guest was leaving the court, in company with Mr Preston, an individual outside the railing exclaimed, "Salute to Henry Clay," and discharged a pistol above his head, the ball lodging in the ceiling. Dreyfous is the name of the person in question. He is looked upon as somewhat unsettled in his intellect. He was immediately arrested and taken before the Recorder, where the affair was investigated. Dreyfous was sent to prison, the Recorder recommending that he should be treated with all possible mildness, as his mind was evidently disordered.

#### WEST INDIES.

The Solway steamer arrived on Wednesday, and brought advices from Jamaica to the 3rd inst.

The Jamaica legislature had been prorogued by the governor, Lord Elgin, who remarks in his speech that harmony had pervaded their discussions, and that tranquillity prevailed among the working classes. The imports of British manufactures into Jamaica were last year to the amount of £750,000, being about the same as in 1841, though in 1840 they were £1,256,000. The new tariff, which is expected to operate more favourably for the planters, by reducing the export duty, had been passed and made public. In Trinidad also the legislature had adopted a new scale of duties, cotton and linen goods being fixed to pay 2 per cent., and other articles, unless specified, 3½ per cent. Pork and beef are to pay 3s. per cwt., and all vessels above 50 tons, 2s. The export duty on sugar is also lowered. In consequence of the large outlay for encouraging immigration, the expenditure greatly exceeds the revenue, the former being £80,000, and the latter only £54,000; but the new duties and other measures are expected to alter this. Other accounts are destitute of interest.

#### BRAZIL.

The Rio de Janeiro papers received by the Petrel packet up to the 25th of December, contain no political news of interest. It is broadly asserted that, though Mr Ellis has received marked distinctions from the hands of the Emperor, his mission for a concession of the traffic in slaves will fail. The slave trade is represented as proceeding most actively, and there appears to be but small chance of effectually suppressing it by the presence of our cruisers on the coast.

The Buenos Ayres and Monte Video papers, received to the latter part of November, are equally barren of interesting intelligence. Skirmishes between the troops of the contending republics are recorded, but without certainty as to who were the parties vanquished. Business was better at Monte Video, where large sales of salted hides had been made for the London market at an advance in price. The vessels loading in the port had nearly all of them full cargoes.

#### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH'S PROCLAMATION.—The *Times* of Wednesday last published a long letter from its Bombay correspondent in reference to Lord Ellenborough's Indian policy; condemning the conduct of the Governor-general in no very measured terms. The effect of the intended restoration of the gates of Somnauth on the Hindoo population is thus noticed:—

"Lord Ellenborough's last proclamation is indeed a curiosity in its way. I had occasion officially to hear it read in an assembly of Brahmans and other Hindoos; and, not having previously made myself acquainted with its purport, was not a little astonished when it was read. I said nothing, however, and looked for the general impression it would make; but, having asked what the assembly thought of it, 'Ah!' cried all, 'what justice, what kindness, what beneficence it is to Hindoos that the great British government should have sent its troops to Ghuznee and Cabul to get the gates of Somnauth! And does not the Nawab Governor-general say he is our friend and

our brother? What condescension!' This was the impression in my little assembly, and it appears to be universal among the Hindoos. Not only here around me, but throughout India, the impression made by this unfortunate document will be, that the whole war was undertaken to regain the gates of Somnauth, and that this is but the prelude to restore Hindooism to its pristine glory."

On the other hand, the Mahometans regard it as an insult to themselves:—

"Think, however, what the impressions of humiliation and of scorn will be when it is known by the Mahometans. A Mahometan gentleman was with me when I had read it, and he turned away in evident confusion and disgust. 'It is clear we have eaten much dirt,' he said afterwards, in allusion to it; 'but you, Sahib loque, are always victorious—who can withstand you?' If his lordship or the whole Calcutta council had set their wits to work to discover a thing which would offend the Mahometan population, they could not have devised a more suitable one than this declaration. Henceforth, as all will say, 'the Hindoos are the brother and friends of the British government, we are not even thought of. Humiliated by the conquest and spoliation of Afghanistan, from which thousands of our ancestors accompanied Mahmoud of Ghaznee, Nadir Schah, and the conqueror in the bloody battle of Paniput, our rule destroyed, and our race despised, henceforth we must bow our necks to the people whom, whenever we have had occasion to do so, we have defeated and despoiled.' Will not this proclamation be felt as an insult wherever Mahometans are in bodies, in the large cities of Delhi, and Lucknow, at Hyderabad, and in other Mahometan principalities?"

It appears also that there is no temple at Somnauth to receive these grand trophies of the Afghan war.

An Indian paper says:—

"Whither are the gates to be conducted? The temple of Somnauth is in ruins. The little that remains of it has been converted into a Mahomedan mosque. Not only has the remembrance of the temple been utterly lost, but that temple itself has ceased to exist as a Hindoo sanctuary, and there is literally no building at Somnauth to which the gates can be affixed, excepting a Mahomedan mosque. When the gates have been transmitted with all honour through Sirhind, and Rajwarra, and Malwa, and Guzerat, to what establishment of priests is the sacred deposit to be given? There is not a Hindoo Brahmin there to welcome them back. The whole population of the town is Mahomedan. The proclamation speaks of a 'restored temple.' Who is to restore it? Is it intended that the British government shall be at the expense of turning a Mahomedan shrine into an idolatrous temple, in order that it may serve as a monument of its victories in Afghanistan? Will the Governor-general procure a fresh idol, and set the Brahmans to reconsecrate the defiled gates?"

Another describes the temple of Somnauth:—

"Lord Ellenborough knew, or ought to have known, that the temple of Somnauth was dedicated to Siva, and the odious Lingum worship in its most detestable impurities; he knew it to be a complete ruin, and his order, if it meant anything, appears to mean the restoration of the temple and shrine under the most publicly announced approbation and patronage of the Governor-general, and of course, we presume, at the expense of the British government."

And to crown the whole, it is said, the gates are rotten, and not sandal wood after all.

THE AFFAIRS OF POLAND.—Warsaw, Jan. 10.—The Emperor Nicholas is still prosecuting, with unabated perseverance, his system of annihilation in respect of Poland. Seventeen years ago the landed proprietors of that kingdom were compelled to borrow a sum of 200,000,000*fr.*, and had mortgaged, as a guarantee for its repayment, one-third of their property. The plan had been submitted to the Diet and received its sanction, and a law was passed to authorise the establishment of the "Territorial association." The officers were to be elected by the parties interested, without any interference on the part of government, of which the association was declared entirely independent. The members of the association had accordingly been allowed to manage their own affairs, and elect their own officers, when, having lately appointed three Polish gentlemen (who had just returned from Siberia, where they had been exiled in 1831), assessors for the department of Augustow, the Emperor annulled their election, and, in despite of the law, decreed that he should hereafter himself fill up the vacancies in the administration.

The *Helvétie* says:—"While Mont St Bernard and all the lateral valleys are covered with snow, the Simplon is almost free from it, and it is as easily passed as in the summer. So mild a winter has not been experienced there for many years. The wind has, indeed, at times been very high, but no calamity has occurred; no avalanche has fallen, and no traveler has been impeded in his passage."

## DOMESTIC.

### METROPOLITAN.

EAST INDIA HOUSE.—A special general court of the proprietors of stock was held at the East India house, on Wednesday, "to call the attention of the court to the papers which have recently been printed and laid before the proprietors, in relation to the commission of inquiry held at Sattara in October, 1836, and the conduct of the commissioners who sat on that inquiry." The court was but thinly attended. Mr Lewis, having been called upon by the chairman, addressed the court, moving:—

"That after a full and anxious consideration of all the circumstances of the case of the Rajah of Sattara, this court is of opinion that justice, no less than the character of the British government in India, require either that the Rajah be restored to his throne, or a full and impartial inquiry be instituted into all the circumstances of his case."

Mr Sullivan seconded the motion. In his opinion, the Rajah of Sattara had passed through a severe ordeal, perfectly unscathed. The Chairman lamented that the time of the proprietors and the directors is so frequently occupied by these fruitless discussions, after decisions have been so repeatedly come to. The court adjourned till Thursday, when the debate was



resumed, but the motion was ultimately defeated by 45 to 16.

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY.**—The anniversary festival of this very excellent society was celebrated in the usual manner at the Freemason's tavern on Wednesday. The chair was taken by Lord John Russell. The secretary announced a long list of subscriptions, amounting to the aggregate of nearly £1,000. In the course of the evening, the persons who had been rescued from a death by the exertions of their brave and humane fellow-creatures entered the room, and made their bow to their preservers and to the company, after which the medals were distributed.

**SHIPWRECKED FISHERMEN'S SOCIETY.**—During the past week upwards of seventy fishermen and mariners arrived in London from different parts of the coast, from whence they had been sent by the different agents of this society. These men were boarded, provided with clothes, until Friday, when they were all sent to their respective homes in England, Scotland, and Ireland, at the expense of the society. The sum of £150 had been forwarded to Dublin, for the relief of parents, widows, and orphans of those who have been wrecked upon the Irish coast; and upwards of £50 have also been received by those families who have suffered on the coast of England.

**WOOD PAVING.**—At the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Patent Wood Paving Society, Wednesday, it was stated that arrangements for carrying out the plan in St George's, in Bond street; in St Baker street and other places; and in the inhabitants of Tottenham-court road great stir in the matter. Several gentlemen attended the meeting, and it was stated that preventive to slipping on the wood paving, and that a cart had been invented, the patronage of the government, which streets as it passed over them, and entirely away with manual labour. A new horse-shoe, manufactured expressly for horses on wood paving; its outer surface is convex and concave, entirely preventing the possibility of slipping.

**FOREIGN CATTLE.**—The following are a few interesting particulars respecting the foreign cattle trade:—Total imports of live stock from all foreign countries since the passing of the tariff to 3rd Dec., 1842:—Oxen, 2,734; cows, 637; total, 3,217; sheep, 654; pigs, 72. Comparative sales in Smithfield market on 7th Jan., 1842, and 16th Jan., 1843:—1842—beasts, 2,812; sheep, 23,294; pigs, 412. 1843—beasts, 2,937; sheep, 29,560; pigs, 397. Prices in 1842:—Prime beef, 4s. 6d. to 4s. 8d. per stone of 8 lbs; best mutton, 4s. 10d. to 5s. per ditto; best porkers, 5s. 2d. to 5s. 4d. per ditto. Prices in 1843:—Prime beef, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 6d.; best mutton, 4s. to 4s. 4d.; best porkers, 4s. 6d. to 4s. 8d.

**BUFFALOES IN SMITHFIELD MARKET.**—Considerable curiosity was excited in Smithfield market on Friday morning, in consequence of the arrival from St Lawrence, originally they were brought from Gibraltar, and imported into the metropolitan market by an English farmer. They were in good condition, though their appearance was not the most fleshy. They were, it was said, purchased early in the day for £15.

**EXTRAORDINARY DEATH.**—On Saturday an inquest was held before Mr Carter, in the Kent road, on the body of Edward Halcombe Dare, aged 15, a gentlemanly young man, who was pursuing his studies at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and who died under the following circumstances:—Edward Dare, Esq., of North Curry, Somerset, deposed that the deceased was his son, and had been studying at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. Witness was on a visit to Mr Halcombe of Hatcham house, New cross. On Thursday evening deceased was taken to him by Mr Adams, deceased's uncle, with a letter explaining the state, in consequence of which he returned home, and was informed by some of the difficulties in the studies. He had heard enough to satisfy himself that the deceased was under agitation arising from what he had heard of the other pupils, who had represented dangers he would have to meet and life he was destined to pursue. He then went to bed, and in less than an hour witness was shocked at discovering he was a corpse. A surgeon was called in, who found the deceased dead. He felt satisfied that the deceased had not taken anything improper, but that his death was attributable to nervous excitement. The coroner said he did not think the jury need go into the question as to what had passed between the deceased and the pupils of the academy, unless it had to do with the cause of death. It might be lamented that anything should be said to operate upon a weak mind, but at the same time it did not appear that there was anything criminal as far as the evidence went. The question was, had the deceased died from natural causes, or from violence or poison. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from natural causes.

**SUDDEN DEATH.**—On Tuesday Mr Wakley held an inquest on the body of Courtney Smith, aged sixty-nine, of Park street, Grosvenor square. The deceased was brother of the late Sir Sidney Smith. He,

on Saturday afternoon, entered a shop, saying, "May I be allowed to rest for a few minutes?" and sat down in a chair, immediately upon which he placed his right arm on the counter, and resting his head in his hand, seemed to faint. A surgeon was instantly sent for, but deceased on his arrival was dead. The Right Hon. R. Vernon Smith, M.P. for Northampton, deposed that the deceased, who was a gentleman of independent fortune, was his uncle. He left home on Saturday, about one o'clock, being in the enjoyment of his usual good health. The jury returned a verdict, "Natural death."

#### PROVINCIAL.

**The Bolton Free Press** states that the requisition to Mr Ainsworth, the member for that borough, calling on him to resign, had received the signatures of 541 electors, being a majority of at least thirty to forty votes, of those who would be likely to be brought to the poll. The requisition was presented to Mr Ainsworth on Friday by a deputation appointed for the purpose, who were very uncourtously received. On receiving the requisition, without looking at its contents, he handed the deputation a cut and dried reply, and wishing them "Good morning," left the room. The answer of their member contained not the slightest notice of the requisition of the Bolton electors, nor any announcement that he would resign his seat.

**BODMIN ELECTION.**—The election of a member to represent this borough in parliament took place on Thursday. The candidates were Sir Samuel Spry, on behalf of the Tories, and Mr C. B. G. Sawle, the son of Sir Joseph Sawle, Bart, a Whig. The latter received the support of the Vivians and Molesworth families. In the early part of the day the liberal candidate kept a head, but at one o'clock they had both polled 106. It was then a neck-and-neck race, and at the close the poll stood thus—Mr C. B. G. Sawle, 161; Sir S. T. Spry, 165; majority, 4.

**NOTTINGHAM ELECTION PETITION.**—There can be little doubt that the petition against the return of Mr Walter will be carried on, and this week a number of speaker's warrants have been served; indeed, we can assure our readers that no pains or expense are to be spared to wrest the independence of the town out of the hands of the Tory corruptors. There are reports very current in the town that Mr Walter has resigned, but we believe they are quite incorrect. —*Nottingham Review*.

**"REBECCA" AT KIDWELLY.**—On Saturday night, or early on Sunday morning, this renowned lady with some of her daughters paid Garreg gate, near this town, a visit, which she entirely demolished. Fragments of the gate-posts and toll boards have since been found in the river. It is worthy of remark that the Garreg road is kept in repair by the parish and borough of Kidwelly, notwithstanding which the trust erected this gate and now receive the tolls. Some of the folks living in the vicinity of the gate say that they heard, about the time that the gate was destroyed, the trampling of a great number of horses, which proves that the parties must have come from a distance. —*Welshman*.

**BRIGHTON.**—A sudden stop has been put to the further progress of the Artesian well forming at the head of the Chain pier. Yesterday se'night, at the depth of 86 feet below the surface, a stratum of rock was encountered, which defied all the efforts of the workmen to bore through it. It turned the point of the hardest steel, and after persevering for two days and a half, the attempt was given over, and the work abandoned, at least for the present. —*Brighton Herald*.

**LAW v. LIONS.**—A person who is connected with Mr Wright's collection of wild beasts, which is now exhibiting in Liverpool, was arrested for debt. After some conversation with the sheriff's officer, he invited him and his followers to view the animals, to which they consented; he described each particular attraction, and finished, à la Van Amburgh, by entering the den with the lion, which latter feat highly pleased the trio of kidnappers, who were waiting to conduct him to duress vile. Their consternation may be easily imagined, when he informed them that he preferred the company of the lions of the forest to the lions of the law, and stated his intention of remaining where he was until after twelve o'clock on Saturday night, when the strong arm of the law, for the time being, would be powerless. Threats and persuasions were alike unavailing; all the satisfaction they could obtain was, that if they wanted him they might come and take him. After some time, the plaintiff appeared, and was so well pleased with the joke that an amicable arrangement soon took place. —*Bolton Free Press*.

**EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCE.**—One of the most singular occurrences it has ever been our lot to record took place on Sunday week, in the parish of Trelech-ar-Bettws, in this county. The whole of the circumstances form a strange wild tale, proving forcibly "that truth is stranger than fiction." It appears that about seven years ago, a farmer named William Jones, residing at Croes-Evan, in the parish of Trelech-ar-Bettws died, and was buried in Trelech churchyard. It was well known to several of his neighbours and intimate acquaintances that he had made a will, which left the principal part of his property to a distant relative, and that he had left comparatively little to his wife. After his decease strict search was made for this will, but it was nowhere to be found, and shrewd suspicions were entertained that the wife had made away with it. However, in the absence of any will, she took possession of the property and lived in the enjoyment of it until the present time. Her conscience, it is supposed, troubled her occasionally, and she dropped hints sometimes that "she knew the law well

enough," and "that no one could punish another for making away with a will, provided it were not destroyed;" she was also heard to say "that the law could not touch her if she had buried the will in her husband's coffin." These circumstances being communicated to her husband's relatives, it was determined to take steps to ascertain how far their suspicions of her dishonesty were confirmed. On Monday morning last, the grave in which old William Jones had been buried, was found to have been disturbed during the night, and filled with fresh earth. Who had done this, was, and is still, a mystery! It is supposed, however, as the deeds have since come to light, that the relatives committed the daring sacrilege, and found the will and other deeds had been buried in the coffin with the old man. There will be work cut out for the gentlemen of the long robe respecting this property, as the witnesses to the will are still living, and the widow most strenuously denies its existence. —*Welshman*.

**STATE OF TRADE.**—The general state of both the hosiery and lace trades in Nottingham is getting gradually worse, especially the former, as we hear of nothing but of reductions of wages and the stopping of frames, and this at the time of the year when, in former times, the demand was great for the spring and East India trades. —*Nottingham Review*. —At Manchester goods have been sold at as low a price as was ever before known, and the letters from India and China hold out but little encouragement. The report from Leeds is to the effect that in fine goods "there was literally nothing doing," and in other kinds of goods nearly nothing. The prospects are stated to be worse than they were a few weeks ago. Nearly the same tale may be told of Huddersfield and Blackburn. At Leicester and Bradford a trifling improvement in the demand was observable.

**IRON TRADE.**—At Merthyr Tydvil a statement as to the iron trade shows, according to the *Silurian*, that the price still continues below the average cost of manufacture. Welsh bars, by the cargo, being quoted as low as from £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton. Several miners have been discharged from Dowlais and Plymouth iron works within the last nine days.

**GENERAL DISTRESS.**—The distress at Newcastle is at present so great, that 5,120 are receiving in-door or out-door parochial relief; and there are 480 inmates in the union workhouse. In Leeds the relief granted to out-door paupers is now £9,250 above what it was three years ago; and, within the same period, the number of applications for relief has increased from 3,481 to 14,839. —*Yorkshireman*.

**MINING IN THE PEAK.**—This far famed district will, in a few years, be as conspicuous for its lead-mine works as it was two centuries ago. The rich veins of lead ore will ere long be subjected to the power of steam engines; and it is fondly anticipated, that the hardy population of the Peak hills will once again be cheered by profitable and something like permanent employment. Companies of wealthy persons have been formed to erect steam engines on a very many old mines in the vicinity of Eyam, where lead ore is said to abound in rich abundance. By the aid of practical mining agents from Cornwall, and some few natives of the Peak of mining celebrity, there is a great probability that nearly all the old works will be cleared from the impeding element—water. —*Derby Reporter*.

**WITCHCRAFT!**—A most distressing case of superstition occurred a few days since, by which a respectable young man, a son of Mr Cooper Elsdon, of Soham, was near losing his life. The facts were related by the young man himself, who states that he left Soham a few days since for Thetford, in the Isle of Ely, about three o'clock in the afternoon. Having occasion to call at Stuntney, he proceeded by way of Ely, and thence by footpath across the meadows. Darkness coming on, and not being certain of the road, he made up to a light in the stable of a small farm occupied by a man named Dent. Here he found a young man, of whom he inquired the way to Thetford. The youth seemed greatly alarmed, but consented to show him the road. Having to pass the door of the house, he saw a man in the act of nailing a horseshoe on the threshold. The moment he saw him, the man—believing it was the witch—rushed upon and struck him a violent blow with the hammer he was using at the time. Fortunately it missed his head, and descended on his shoulder. He then ran into his house and called for his gun, threatening to put an end to the existence of the supposed author of his trouble. The feelings of a young man who had lost his way in a lone place, suspected of witchcraft, children clinging round the father, and screaming for fear of the witch; the mother holding the father's arm, imploring him not to shoot; the son calling out, "It's not the witch, father, but a man;" expecting every moment to be his last—can be better imagined than described. The young man he first saw was endeavouring to get him out of the way of his infatuated father, saying he was sure he would kill him, relating to him their misfortunes and sufferings under the influence of witchcraft for some time past, and saying that he himself had dreamed three successive nights that his father was nailing a horse-shoe on the door—that the witch made her appearance, and was shot; and that they had lost, through witches, a cow and calf, and their old mare, within the last few days. Fortunately, the young man escaped to the road, and reached Thetford in safety. We vouch for the truth of the above, without exaggeration, although one can scarcely believe that in the year 1843, and within a mile of the colleges and cathedral church of Ely, such superstition and ignorance could prevail. —*Correspondent of Cambridge Independent*.



**MUTILATION AT LEEDS.**—The inquest on the mutilated remains of a woman's body found in the Aire at Leeds, sat again on Monday, the 6th inst, without eliciting much further information. Medical witnesses expressed an opinion that the woman had been between twenty and thirty years of age; that she had died from loss of blood, probably caused by wounds in the large vessels of the neck; that she had not destroyed herself; that the mutilations of the body and breaking of the ribs had been done after death; and that the body had been some weeks in the water. The inquest was again adjourned to the 29th instant.

**SHOCKING OCCURRENCE AT NEWBURY.**—On Saturday evening, the 4th instant, while Mr H. Cuthbert, the leading actor, was standing on the stage at the close of the performances, he heard a scream in the pit, and, looking over the orchestra, saw Mr Hall, the leader of the band, stagger, and placing his hand to his back, exclaim, "I have been stabbed." He immediately jumped over into the pit, where he saw Mrs Hall lying between the seats on the floor, bleeding profusely from a wound in her hand. He immediately got her on the stage, and imagining that her husband had done it, gave her in care of some of the company, and returned to the pit, where he found Mr Hall lying across one of the benches, bleeding copiously from two frightful wounds, one in the back, and the other on the shoulder. He was taken on the stage, where Mr Hooper, surgeon of the town, was directly in attendance on him. He dressed the wounds, and the unfortunate man was conveyed to his lodgings in a very dangerous state. During the whole of the time the surgeon was attending on Mr Hall, the wretched woman was alarmingly outrageous, calling him her "Dear George." On examining her hands he found the wound was superficial. The woman, who was quite sober, refused to give any account of the transaction. On searching the pit, a large pig knife covered with blood, was picked up near the spot, which, on subsequent inquiry, it was found she had borrowed a short time previous from a butcher in the neighbourhood. Jealousy has been assigned as the cause of this rash attempt. The wretched woman has been ever since in a state bordering on insanity. She was formerly Miss Rogers, daughter of a provincial actor, and has been but lately married to Hall. Mr Hooper stated that had the wound on the back been any lower, instant death must have occurred.

#### IRELAND.

**THE UNIVERSITY ELECTION.**—The election of a member for the Dublin university, in place of Mr (now judge) Jackson, took place on Friday, in the examination hall of the college. Mr George Alexander Hamilton was the only candidate proposed, and was of course declared by the Provost duly elected.

**RESURRECTIONISTS.**—Great excitement was caused at Cork, on Friday week, by the discovery that a dead body had been stolen, and was being conveyed to one of the most eminent anatomists and practitioners of the city. The body was discovered by the turnpike man on the western road, on its way to town, and the parties who had possession of it were delivered into the custody of the police. An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict of natural death was returned; after which it was given up to the friends of the deceased. The Mayor ordered the prisoners, William Walsh, Jeremiah Fitzgerald, and Mary Connell, to be kept in custody, until the matter had been communicated to the government. The space in front of the Bridewell was thronged to excess all day, with men, women, and children, and the denunciations uttered against the doctors were both loud and deep. Indeed, it was feared at one time that an attack would have been made on some of the parties concerned, but fortunately no breach of the peace occurred.

#### SCOTLAND.

The decrease in the number of unemployed of Paisley, during the last week, amounted to 793. The list is now reduced to about 8,000.

**STRANGE GENEROSITY.**—There is now to be seen at the shop of Mr Rait, goldsmith, Buchanan street, Glasgow, a beautiful and richly chased tea and coffee service of plate, together with a magnificent silver candelabrum, presented with equal generosity and delicacy of feeling to Mr Alison, sheriff of the county, by an unknown individual in one of the commercial cities of England. The following inscription is engraven on the tribute:—

"To Archibald Alison, Esq.,  
Author of the 'History of Europe during the  
French Revolution,'  
In testimony of the sense entertained of the benefits  
he has conferred upon his country!  
From an Unknown Donor."

To mar by any eulogistic commentary of our own the effect of this elegant yet simple act of homage paid to a good and gifted man would be a sin against correct taste and feeling. For those, moreover, who know the worth and work of him to whom this work of admiring respect has been paid by an enlightened English citizen, all such commentaries were superfluous, and for those who possess not that knowledge, useless, since in their hand neither our columns nor the columns of any respectable British journalist are likely to be found.—*Glasgow Constitutional.*

**ROMANTIC DEATH OF A HIGHLAND GIRL.**—The *Inverness Herald* details the following melancholy incident, which occurred during a snow storm in the north, on the fatal and memorable 13th of January:—A piper, residing at or near Riconich of Rea, Sutherlandshire, arranged with a young female of the name of Dolina McAskil, servant to a shepherd in Assynt, to meet her on the 13th ult., at her sister's house in

that parish, and accompany her on a visit to her mother, residing at Edderachylis. Although the day was snowy and drifty, the piper kept his appointment; but, as the girl did not make her appearance, he proceeded on his journey to her mother's, leaving injunctions that the girl should not attempt to follow him on so stormy a day. Shortly after the girl arrived, and accustomed to the inclemency of the weather, would listen to no caution and brook no delay. She took the road and soon missed it, and became benumbed and overcome with cold. When it was discovered that she had not arrived at her destination, the whole inhabitants of the countryside turned out in quest of her. After several days of fruitless search, she was at last found frozen, in a sitting posture, beside a stream, within a mile and a half of the ferry of Kyle Sku. She appeared to have been in the act of changing her stockings for a dry pair she carried with her, when she was arrested by the hand of death; and was found with one hand holding her plaid about her head, and the other resting as a support to her body upon her knee.

#### LAW AND POLICE. IMPORTANT DECISION.

**THE QUEEN v. BADGER AND OTHERS.**—Lord Denman gave his decision in this important case in the court of Queen's Bench on Saturday. It will be recollected that, during the disturbances in Staffordshire, Mr O'Neil was apprehended on a charge of using seditious language at a meeting of chartists held near Dudley. He was committed for trial on that charge: he subsequently tendered as bail two persons who were town councillors of Birmingham; but the defendants, Mr Badger and the Rev. Mr Cartwright, before whom they attended, refused to accept the bail on the ground that these persons had attended and taken a prominent part at chartist meetings. O'Neil subsequently applied to this court for a rule calling upon the defendants to show cause why a criminal information should not be filed against them for having refused to accept the bail. A rule nisi was granted, and the point was afterwards discussed at the bar; the Solicitor-general and Mr Waddington showing cause against the rule, and Mr Erle and Mr Boothby supporting it. The court took time to deliberate on its judgment, and on Saturday Lord Denman delivered the following judgment, which, on account of its extreme importance, we give at length:—

"We have thought it our duty to read the affidavits, and give full consideration to this very important case, and to explain the reasons of our decision. If our remarks should affect any further legal proceedings, our silence might be followed by the same inconvenience which, indeed, is inseparable from the exercise of that jurisdiction which we are now asked to bring into operation. This application was made on behalf of Arthur George O'Neil, who was apprehended for seditious language, said to have been used at an unlawful assembly held at Dudley last August; and he was taken before Mr Badger and the Rev. Mr Cartwright, two magistrates of the county of Stafford, upon that charge. They required him to find two sureties of £100 each for his appearance to take his trial, and be of good behaviour in the mean time; but when two persons of the names of Page and Trueman were tendered to the above-mentioned magistrates as his bail, they were refused, though perfectly solvent and in respectable circumstances (being town councillors of Birmingham, for which office they must possess a qualification of £1000 over and above what would pay their debts), on the alleged ground that they had attended chartist meetings; the two magistrates assigned no other reason, though they stated they had other reasons. For this refusal a rule for a criminal information was granted, which has been discussed on showing cause. The affidavits in answer to the rule disclose facts which prove that a highly disturbed and alarming state of things existed in the neighbourhood at the time the bail were tendered. It appears that large numbers of colliers and other workmen had withdrawn from their employ, and had commenced acts of extreme violence, inciting other workmen; and had even proceeded to the destruction of property, to intimidation, and riot. Large meetings of such persons were held, whose passions were inflamed by seditious harangues addressed to them by strangers, traveling about the country under the name of chartists; that there was considerable and imminent danger that the peace would be broken, and most fearful anarchy become universal. Her Majesty had denounced the proceedings on the 13th of August by a proclamation, which called upon the magistrates to act with promptitude and vigour in the suppression of such meetings and the apprehension of the offenders. By the magistrates and police, aided by special constables and the military, which were absolutely indispensable, such meetings were prevented or dispersed, and the parties accused of breaking the peace were arrested and handed over for trial in the courts of justice. O'Neil, who has obtained this rule, is one of the persons against whom information of misconduct was laid on oath before the magistrates, and we understand he is to take his trial on that charge; we shall, therefore, abstain from comment on all particulars alleged against him; but the court is bound to express an opinion upon some of the topics enlarged upon at the bar, and on the grave nature of the proceedings. The right of workmen to meet together for considering the amount of wages, or of freely discussing public grievances, is foreign to this subject. The complaint is not that workmen assembled to devise means for bettering their condition, but that others took advantage of their quarrel with their masters; and finding vast numbers unemployed, ignorant, and disaffected, sought to incite them to every kind of outrage—not that the discussion of public grievances had been intemperately conducted, but that tumultuous assemblies, rendering all discussion impossible, led to speeches and conduct which must have been expected to lead to violent meetings, outbreaks, conflicts with the lawful authorities, and almost certain bloodshed, and very probably to universal pillage. Whether or not these meetings had been held in the immediate neighbourhood of Dudley is of small importance—they had been held in other quarters, producing their natural results, and were rapidly extending. It is sworn that near Dudley, a population of half a million persons were

expected to follow this example, and in this state the meeting in question was announced. It was on the argument, that few deeds of violence were committed in that district, and those by no formidable character; if that be so, we have no doubt, when we regard the materials and the instruments chief that were prepared, that it is to be ascribed to vigilance, the spirit, and real humanity with which the magistrates enforced the law, as her Majesty's proclamation enjoined them; we think they are entitled to the gratitude of their sovereign and the country for their conduct, and we are of opinion that they have deserted their duty if they had not committed for trial for the part he was proved to have committed, a meeting which they most properly dispersed on the 26th of August. At this point of time a new state has arisen, the law has been fully vindicated, the assembly has been dissolved, the agitators, as themselves, are withdrawn from it without interruption, and secured, that their imputed offence investigated before a jury. Standing charged with a misdemeanour, O'Neil claims the right of every charged, to be released from prison and admitted on producing sufficient sureties. He says he is such to the magistrates, who refused to receive him, not from an objection to their sufficiency, but from corrupt, partial, and arbitrary motives, with the intention to keep him in prison, when their duty required them, under the circumstances, to bail him out of custody. We have, first, to consider this refusal was a lawful act, a point on which serious doubt was entertained. Neither of the counsel who opposed the rule contended that a magistrate can lawfully reject bail at his own discretion at liberty, when bail is offered, to enter into a question as to the character or opinions of such bail; he is satisfied of their sufficiency to answer the appearance of the party in the amount reasonable for that purpose. The law is clear, and is as the statute of Westminster, 13 Edward I. c. 15. In his commentary upon that statute (2nd Inst. says that 'to deny a man plevin who is plevin thereby to detain him in prison, is a great and grievously to be punished; and Lord Hale (c. 17) adopts the same remark; and Hawkins (2, c. 15), speaking of bail as an indictable offence. Blackstone, referring to the ancient statute (4th book, c. 22), *Corpus* and the bill of Rights, calls it an offence the liberty of the subject. If, then, such a place from improper motives, it might be a criminal offence, and made subject to an information. The affidavits on which the rule was granted accused the magistrates of motives of partial, personal, and arbitrary; but even the themselves do not mean to charge pecuniary or personal malice, or any feeling of revenge, or of giving an unfair advantage to one litigant another. The only censurable feelings that any show of reason be suspected, are a premeditated refusal and disregard of the just claim made by his liberation, and a determination to keep him without legal authority, and in contempt of the affidavits on both sides are much the substance in respect of all that occurred before the magistrates. The facts being clear, the question is, criminal information ought to be filed; and on our view of the motives which influenced the magistrates. And we must advert to the very character of one line of defence which they insinuate rather than avow. They depose that previous to the apprehension of O'Neil they consulted with their brother magistrates as to the bail to be taken by them in the case of persons charged with attending illegal meetings, for using language, and particularly for inciting to outrage as the disturbances were then going on in the districts in Staffordshire and in the neighbourhood and resistance to the laws was fomented and the inflammatory and exciting speeches as persons who were chartists. They debate they were called upon to accept as bail for any one charged with the same offence, have rejected them. Now, the assumption known to the law appears to us peculiarly at a period of disturbance, and not to be rather rendered so much the more culpable, followed by high functionaries having a judicial form; and if we had found the magistrates taking such a measure in defiance of the law, the moment so given would have compelled us to mark our disapprobation of their conduct, proceedings, however, give the parties the opportunity of explaining the state of mind in which they acted, and we find the magistrates expressly swearing that they thought they were acting in the fair, legitimate exercise of their office, and in the performance of their duty as magistrates. We may regret that the question of law was not more carefully examined; almost the first page of their most ordinary text books would have convinced these gentlemen that their refusal to receive the bail offered was not a legitimate exercise of their office, or a proper performance of their duty as magistrates, but the contrary. Their opinion that it was right was hastily adopted in a crisis of real danger, and most probably, from a deference to the general resolution which induces us, in conformity to the rule by which this Court has regulated its practice, to decline interfering by criminal information. We shall therefore discharge the rule; but as the conduct of the magistrates was such as to justify the application, they must pay all the costs attending it."

Rule discharged; all the costs to be paid by the magistrates.



**SUNDAY TRADING.**—On Monday week a diminutive and sickly looking boy, of about twelve years of age, who brought up man 42 wit pick a gent policeman s gling among letters, and serring his boy, however to escape, b y magistrate, after commenting in his sive manner on the heinousness of its having been committed on the Lord's out to pass sentence; when he was inter-upted by a somewhat singular looking individual, up, and addressing himself to the Bench, the prisoner was the hope of his age, his only beam, his eldest son. The following en took place:—"Your vorship, I objects ecution." Mr Rushton—"On what r?" Father—"Vy, the taking of the boy s illegal." Mr Rushton—"How do you make Father—"Vy, the policeman was following his [here he re his hand], ing his ord takin' the legal. He paper and his tradesman, artificer, workman, labourer, or other person wh labour, bu on the Lor d's day," and then he continued, "Now every bod y knows that a Peeler ain't a tradesman, or a labor er, or anything so respectable, but it is clear that he is a 'other person whatsoever.' As to aid about 'judem generis,' I don't know means; but a Peeler can't be a 'judem soz he is a Peeler." Mr Rushton said that the point was raised with considerable ability by the applicant, and he felt great difficulty how to deal with the case. He thought that if the policeman excluded from Lord Tenterden's meaning of 'judem generis,' the taking was illegal, and he felt disposed, in this instance, to give the boy the benefit of the doubt, if he would promise to look after the morals of his son for the future. He should like to know wh at was the applicant's occupation. Appli- cant—"Occupation? I belong to the profession." Mr Dowling observed to Mr Rushton, that the applicant was well known as a notorious and successful burglar, but that he had hitherto escaped conviction. [Here the applicant looked Mr Dowling steadily in the face, and put the end of his thumb in contact with the point of his nose]. Mr Rushton hoped that he would not make any disrespectful signals in that court. The applicant replied that "he didn't mean nothing, but he knewed the facts of parliament too well to get convicted." Mr Rushton (to the boy)—"What, are you brought up as a professed thief?" Boy—"To be sure I is." Mr Rushton—"Then I fine you, for carrying on your ordinary occupation on the Lord's day."—*Liverpool Chronicle.*

### Miscellaneous.

**SPLENDID METEOR.**—A little after eight o'clock in the evening of Sunday the 5th inst, a splendid illuminat ed meteor passed over a considerable part of the north of the county of Nottingham. Its course was from the N.W., and in its direct path it went a little to the east of Grove, near Retford, where its appearance was splendid in the extreme. It greatly resembled a large body of fire of a blood red colour, assuming various shapes. Its apparent height here was trifling, but its velocity could not be less than 50 or 60 miles per minute. In its course it was seen by numbers at a distance from each other, yet those who observed it, although so many miles asunder, fancied it fell within a short distance.—*Nottingham Journal.*

**DEPLORABLE STATE OF DR SOUTHEY.**—The following is an extract from Mrs Southey (formerly so well known as Caroline Bowles) to Mrs Sigourney, an American authoress, in answer to a letter, in which the latter lady desired to be remembered to the Laureate:—"You desired to be remembered to him who said of 'Thalaba, the wild and wondrous tale.' 'Alas, my friend, the dull, cold ear of death is not more insensible than his, my dearest husband's, to all communications from the world without. Scarcely can I keep hold of the last poor comfort of believing that he still knows me. The almost complete unconsciousness has not been of more than six months' standing, though more than two years have elapsed since he has written even his name. After the death of his first wife, 'Edith,' of his first love, who was for several years insane, his health was terribly shaken. Yet for the greater part of a year he spent with me in Hampshire, my former home, it seemed perfectly re-established, and he used to say, 'It had surely pleased God that the last years of his life should be happy.' But the Almighty's will was otherwise. The little cloud soon appeared which was in no long time to overshadow all. In the blackness of its shadow we still live, and shall pass from under it only to the portals of the grave. The last three years have done on me the work of twenty. The one sole business of my life is that, which, I verily believe, keeps the life in me—the guardianship of my dear, helpless, unconscious husband."—*Leeds Intelligencer.*

**WRECK OF ANOTHER INDIAMAN.**—Letters received by the underwriters at Lloyd's, on Thursday last, an-

nounce the total wreck of another fine Indiaman, called the *Harmony*, a vessel of 700 tons burthen, commanded by Captain Richard Smith, laden with a valuable cargo, consisting of 12,000 bags of sugar, 120 cases of silks, besides other merchandise to a considerable amount, the whole of which was irrecoverably lost. The catastrophe took place at a late hour at night on the 27th of October last, while on her passage to Bombay, and, unfortunately, four fine fellows belonging to the crew met with a watery grave. At the time the ship had all sail standing and a stiffish breeze blowing from the westward, when suddenly she struck heavily upon a sunken shoal, situate in lat. 12, long. 11-3, E. So severe was the shock, that those who were upon deck were thrown down, and the mainmast instantly gave way and fell overboard. The utmost terror and confusion now reigned throughout the vessel. All were scrambling over the bulwarks for the boats, which were no sooner filled before they were pushed off, and, before they had reached many yards, the ship gave a lurch, and went down in a great depth of water, carrying with her the four seamen, who were supposed to be in the fore-castle, endeavouring to save their clothes. The survivors, after rowing to the southward for some hours, were picked up by a vessel which took them to Manila, where they are reported to remain. None of the passengers were able to save any portion of their luggage. The loss by the wreck and her cargo is very heavy.

**THE LAST OF THE MOHEGANS.**—John Uncas, the last male of the royal line of the celebrated chief of that name, died at Mohegan, a suburb of Norwich, Conn., last month (December), aged 89 years. He was buried on Wednesday in the royal burial ground of the Mohegans, which is now marked by the monument completed last summer through the public spirit of the ladies of the place. The passing away of a whole tribe of men, once the free, dauntless lords of the soil, says the *Newark Daily*, is certainly well calculated to awaken sensibility, and the contemplation of the oppression and wrongs under which they have dwindled away and finally perished naturally excites painful emotions.—*American paper.*

**RAILROADS & COACHES.**—Only eleven mail coaches now leave London daily for the country. A few years since, before railways were formed, there were nearly thirty that used to leave the General Post office. The number of miles which the mail coaches going to and from London daily travel on turnpike roads is about 5,000. The number of miles which the different railway companies convey mails daily is 4,435. Cross-road mails in England, Scotland, and Wales, run over nearly 12,000 miles of ground every day. Thus, by principal conveyances the correspondence in this country is conveyed over more than 20,000 miles of ground every twenty-four hours. From these principal conveyances innumerable mail carts and horse and foot letter carriers branch off, and every road, land, street, and court in the kingdom is traversed from sunrise to sunrise.

**PICKFORD'S WAREHOUSE AT CAMDEN TOWN.**—The area of this warehouse is almost exactly double that of Westminster hall; being about 230 feet long by 140 in width. The roof, divided into three sections, and supported by two rows of pillars, exhibits nearly an acre of slating, and a hundred of skylights. The whole warehouse is vaulted beneath; and so enormous are the weights which these vaults have to support, that more than three millions of bricks were used in their construction.—*Penny Magazine.*

**TREATMENT OF DISEASE FROM MINERAL POISONS.**—In the *Medical Times* there is a very useful article on the treatment recommended in cases of poisoning. The principal object, in all such cases, is to excite vomiting, and at the same time, to neutralise the poison. The following simple rules may, in some cases, be found useful. For arsenic:—Emetics of sulphate of zinc, large draughts of new milk, gruel, linseed tea. Antimony:—Tickle the throat with a feather, large draughts of milk fluids. Bismuth:—Milk, and mucilaginous fluid. Copper:—Large draughts of milk and water, iron filings and water, whites of eggs in water. Nitrate of silver:—A tablespoonful of common salt in a pint of water, a wineglassful every two minutes. Lead:—Lime, vinegar, and other vegetable acids. Mercury:—White of eggs mixed in water. Tin:—Draughts of milk copiously, and warm water. Zinc:—The poisons of zinc seldom produce death, by occasioning vomiting, which should be rendered easy by draughts of warm water, or milk and albumen.

### VARIETIES.

**MR J. R. McCulloch**, the eminent political economist, was elected a foreign associate of the Institute of France, in the department of the *Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques*, on the 21st January, in the room of M. Simonde de Sismondi, deceased. Out of 18 votes, Mr McCulloch obtained 16; M. Hugo, 1; and M. Ranke, the historian of the popes, 1. A royal ordinance confirmed the election. The foreign associates of the institute are five; two being on the continent, and three in this country—Brougham, Hallam, and now McCulloch.

A newly married lady, who was very fond of her husband, notwithstanding the extreme ugliness of his person, once said to a friend—"What do you think? my husband has gone and laid out fifty guineas for a large baboon on purpose to please me!" "The dear little man!" cried the other, "well, it is just like him."

The manufacture of cigars at Hamburgh is carried on so extensively as (it is asserted) to occupy more than 10,000 persons, chiefly women and children. The total number of cigars manufactured annually is 150,000,000 the value of which is 6,000,000 of marks current (about £350,000 sterling).

From a statement made by Mr O'Connor, it appears that he has discontinued his connexion with the *Evening Star*; that the proprietors have lost, in six months, £3,500; and that the paper now advocates tory principles.

A company of sappers and miners are to be forthwith sent out to Hong Kong, to be employed in erecting fortifications on that island. Two companies of the royal artillery are afterwards to be permanently stationed there.

**MORTALITY.**—The quarterly table of mortality, in 114 of the principal districts (including nearly all the large towns) of England and Wales has just been published; whence it appears that the average total number of deaths in the four autumns from 1838 to 1841 (inclusive) was 42,003; the total number for the last autumn was 39,368; the quarterly average for the past year, 48,554. These numbers are inclusive of metropolitan mortality, which for the corresponding periods averaged respectively 11,861, 11,631, and 11,318. The population in the metropolitan districts was at the last census, 1,870,727; in the entire of the districts included in these returns, 6,534,535. Some things in these statements are startling. Thus, while the mortality of the metropolitan districts is in round numbers 12,000 during the winter quarter, the mortality for the same period in Birmingham was in round numbers 1,000, with a population of only 138,000.

At a late meeting of the Mesmeric authorities (as reported in the *Medical Times*), it was stated by Dr Elliotson, the president, that "the Duke of Marlborough had informed him, in a letter from Ireland, that whilst at the Marquis of Ely's seat in that country, and strolling out in the morning, he came upon a very ferocious dog, chained in a farm yard. His grace durst not approach this brute, but standing at a respectful distance, Mesmerised him; and, going up, actually embraced the sleeping brute. The dog remained in the sleep for thirty minutes."

The Americans are making most extensive preparations for the supply of the English market with pork, beef, lard, &c. From Cincinnati it is stated that there are about twenty firms hard at work, each of which, for some weeks previously, has been slaughtering from 100 to 1000 hogs daily. Extraordinary care is said to have been adopted in the jointing and packing of the meat, and an experienced Irish packer was making a fine harvest by directing operations. The pork was cut into pieces of 4lbs each, 50 of which are packed in a barrel. Better salt was used, together with such other improvements, that it is drolly remarked—"If this splendid meat be not good enough for grumbling John Bull, he deserves to go hungry." Hogs had been sold at 1 dollar 62 cents, to 1 dollar.

"What is it that makes iced cakes, Mich?" "Och! Larry, but it's you that's stupid! Don't they bake them in a cowl'd oven sure?"

### Literature.

**An Efficient Remedy for the Distress of Nations.** By JOHN GRAY, Author of "The Social System," a Treatise on the Principle of Exchange. Edinburgh: Black. London: Longman and Co.

"Production, now the effect of demand, must become the cause of it. This is the remedy to which I refer in my title page. In this may at any time be found—an efficient remedy for the distress of nations." Such, in his own words, is the essential principle of Mr Gray's politico-economical theory. In the solution of this most interesting problem—in stating the *how* of a design so magnificent in conception and so munificent in promise, the author displays profundity of thought, copious information, great ingenuity, and powers of stating his case with singular clearness. The plan he broaches is original—at first sight, startling. It is in direct antagonism with any existing practices—and will be dismissed by many, if indeed many shall put themselves to the trouble of comprehending it, as utterly impracticable. Nevertheless, it is one which will bear scrutiny and discussion—and although, as we think, it is, as a plan, too cumbersome, we doubt not, some other mode may be discovered of developing the principle which is its germ, and which we cannot but regard as sound, and even axiomatic.

Before we proceed to give our readers an outline of it, we shall allow Mr Gray to make a few general observations, in which we most unhesitatingly concur—

"The materials of wealth are plentiful enough, surely. Houses are made principally of stone, clay, wood, and iron. Wool, cotton, flax, hemp, and leather, are the chief ingredients of our clothing. Cattle, sheep, fish, corn, rice, sugar, and tea, with dairy and garden produce, are the principal articles of our subsistence. All of these are multipliable or attainable to an indefinite extent by the application of capital, skill, and labour. Then, if we turn to the higher sources of our enjoyments, we find that the materials of their construction are of a still more insignificant description. Take, for example, the fine arts—literature, painting, sculpture, music; or the sciences—as astronomy, natural philosophy, chemistry, botany, and others. The physical materials of these pursuits are absolutely trifling. A few yards of canvass, with a few shillings' worth of paint and brushes, are material enough for a man of art to produce exchangeable value worth a thousand pounds. Books are made of old, worn-out wearing apparel, and such like valuables; the printing materials—types and presses—constituting, from their very durable nature, but a mere fraction of the entire cost of a book; whilst that of ink is almost nominal; all the rest is human skill and industry. The same observation applies, in a greater or less degree, to all the higher sources of human enjoyment; deduct the cost of skill and industry, and the rest—material—will generally prove



to be a very small affair indeed. Nor is there anything really essential to the happiness of man which the Creator has not placed at his disposal in superabundance, and even that is too limited a word to express the boundless nature of his liberality towards us.

"Why, then, is a human being, able and willing to work, in want of any of these things? It is because we have not yet exercised as we should have done that spirit of investigation and inquiry which the nature of the case demands. It is—I speak now of my native land—because, instead of concentrating our faculties into one united and impartial inquiry into the causes of the evils that afflict us, we are split into little contemptible parties and sections of parties—religious, political, commercial, social; each one of which is much more industriously occupied with the endeavour to gain a mean and pitiful victory over its especial antagonist, than with the pursuit of truth; whilst the clergy, whose especial duty it is to console and comfort us under our afflictions, being enveloped, in common with others, in the general mist, tell us, with the utmost placidity and coolness—that it is by the wise dispensation of God's providence that we are thus afflicted. I suspect we shall be much nearer the truth if we affirm—that to the ignorance, the folly, and the perversity of man alone are attributable all those social evils which come under the denomination of commercial embarrassment, poverty, and consequent distress and crime."—pp. 81—83.

The change suggested by our author as a certain remedy for our present and often recurring commercial embarrassments, is, not political, but monetary. The unsoundness of the present system is exposed in a few words—

"The fault of our present monetary system is this:—Money of the existing character cannot by any possibility be made to increase as fast as the aggregate of other commodities is capable of being increased; and, consequently, whenever other commodities are increased faster than money, they must either be kept on hand until the balance be restored, or else they must be disposed of at a loss, even although half mankind should be in the utmost need of them.

"That gold cannot be increased in quantity as fast as the aggregate of other things, is self-evident. We can multiply corn, hemp, flax, cotton, wool, and fifty things beside, to an almost indefinite extent; and we can convert these materials into articles of utility and luxury, by processes always easy, in many instances wonderfully so. But we cannot increase gold in the same ratio; and, therefore, as gold is the measure of the value of all things, all things must be sold at a loss, if sold at all, whenever they are caused to increase faster than this one commodity. If goods be now at one, and money at one, goods must remain at one until gold shall set the example of increase by becoming two; otherwise, the result of production is loss. Practically speaking, money is the demand, and goods the supply; and the reason why the aggregate supply always exceeds the aggregate demand is, that gold cannot be increased as fast as the aggregate of other things.

"The object of manufacturing goods is to sell them for more money than they cost. But, were we to make all the goods we could make, it would be just as impossible to sell them for more money than they cost, as it now is to put two bottles of wine into one wine bottle and to keep them both there at one and the same time. If the bottle be already full, we cannot put any more wine into it, until it be partially or wholly emptied; and if the money demand in the market be supplied, then must the remaining goods wait on hand until that supply be partially or wholly exhausted; else loss instead of profit will be the result of their disposal. If there be as much value of goods in the market as there is money in the market to obtain in exchange for them, all the goods that may be sent to market additionally must either remain unsold in the hands of their proprietors, or else they must bring down the price of the whole quantity to just that sum of money which might have been obtained for a part of the goods, had the remainder never existed."—pp. 2, 3.

Mr Gray thus states the true and infallible standard of value—

"THE STANDARD OF VALUE.—There is only one thing in this world that ever can be a true standard of value, and that is the thing which creates value—namely, labour; brought into operation upon fixed principles, having the sanction of government, and being recognised, by government in all its pecuniary transactions with, and exactions from, the governed. Money should be the transferable representative of wealth, increasing and diminishing in quantity in exact and invariable proportion to the increase and diminution of that which it represents. But no money whatever can constitute a standard of value, unless it be in itself destitute of value; because all valuable commodities, of whatsoever kind, are, and ever must be, liable to fluctuation, whilst a true standard of value can never fluctuate."—pp. 5, 6.

Having thus developed the principle, the author proceeds to lay out his plan for its actualisation. We shall endeavour to put our readers, in as few words as possible, into possession of it. He would have a section of the government appointed to establish and control a great number of extensive manufactories, in various branches of the least speculative character, whose duty it would be to make all such goods as are in constant demand, and may be stored without injury. These are to be designated *standard* manufactories, and the goods made in them to be distinguished from other goods by a patent stamp, bearing the word "*standard*." They are to be lodged in warehouses, the managers of which are to be appointed by the commissioners, and are to be sold by wholesale only, and only in exchange for the *standard* money to be presently defined, and for payment in every case before delivery—leaving the disposal of them by retail open, as in all other cases, to competition. The *standard* money is to consist of bank notes, to be issued on demand by the *standard* bank, to be established in connexion with the factories and depôts—and to be made a legalised tender for all pecuniary obligations whatsoever. The immutable character of the *standard* note takes its rise from this circumstance:—An average price of labour—

by which average, all wages, salaries, and payments are to be regulated—is to be fixed upon by the trade commissioners with the consent and approval of the government, and this average once fixed may remain the same for ever. In order to be equitable, Mr Gray contends that it must be fixed with reference to the situation of the greatest proportion of creditors and obligants, in number and amount, who may exist throughout the kingdom, or who may have claims upon its inhabitants. The *standard* note will, in fact, represent the value of so many hours of average labour. The present plan of reckoning money in pounds, shillings, and pence to be retained, but—

"It is quite impossible that the shilling, being the twentieth part of a pound of fixed value, can go on for ever and ever to be of a fixed weight, any more than the quantity of corn, wine, coals, or mutton, attainable from time to time in exchange for a pound note of fixed value, should be immutable. The value of the proposed *standard* note is precluded by its very nature from liability to change; and, consequently, the weight of a silver twentieth of such note must be precisely one-twentieth part of the weight of silver attainable in exchange for it, however much or little that may chance to be. And the same observation applies equally to gold. The silver coins now in use are just so many little silver absurdities, every one of which might properly be impressed with the motto, 'False pretence,' seeing that it is not, nor ever can be, what it pretends to be, a thing of changeless value."

Such is a very meagre outline of our author's plan. It does not interfere with any private speculations. But it does fix the value of labour, and makes that value the standard by which to regulate everything else. We are bound to say that Mr Gray has most ably, if not satisfactorily, worked out the details, and met the most obvious objections—and by a knowledge of these details only, can a fair judgment be arrived at of the efficiency of his remedy for the distress of nations. His own anticipations are thus expressed:—

"The consequence of adopting this system of exchange, would be an enormous increase in the creation and distribution of real wealth—namely, of the necessities, comforts, and luxuries of life. But as money would go on increasing in an exact ratio with the increase of commodities, no fall of price whatever could be occasioned by any increase of production, however great. Things that are multiplicable, almost *ad libitum*, by human industry, such as most articles of food, clothing, habitation, and furniture, would become wonderfully cheap, as compared with gold and silver. But this is a matter of no consequence. It is no practical evil now, that silver is cheaper than gold, copper cheaper than silver, and lead cheaper than all three. On the contrary, in a commercial point of view, these differences of value are rather a convenience than otherwise. For domestic purposes, ornaments, and such like matters, silver and gold are very desirable things, because of their greater purity, cleanliness, and elegance, as compared with the baser metals. But if gold were to become so scarce, that a score of fertile acres, or a well-built house, would no longer purchase an ounce of it, no commercial evil would arise therefrom, if mercantile exchanges were once put upon a right principle.

"From their convenience as articles of accumulation, as well as for the purpose of making payments in certain cases to foreign nations, gold and silver may be at all times both useful and desirable. Yet would it matter not a straw at what comparative price they should stand in the market. Though a *standard* pound should, at some future time, exchange for less gold than a fourth weight of the present sovereign, it would still be the representative of so many hours of the labour of a good workman, employed under the most advantageous circumstances that unbounded capital could command; and it would purchase whatever these hours of labour could create. Whilst everything that should facilitate production, every invention which should enable a man to do to-day double the work he did yesterday, would halve the price of the thing produced, and the wages of labour being fixed and immutable, consequently double its accessibility to all."

We cannot conclude this article without advertising to a plan, somewhat similar in its basis, but much less cumbersome, proposed by a correspondent to the *General Advertiser* for February:—

"With the present gold and silver coin I would not interfere, but allow any person who found it profitable to send gold or silver to the mint to be coined. I would abolish all monopolies, and would compel all banks that issue notes to give full security to government, or to commissioners appointed by parliament, by lending the amount for which they purposed to issue notes at a small per centage, say two per cent., in return for the privilege of issue; imposing a heavy fine if they issued more paper than the amount so invested. Thus would the public be secured in the full payment of all sums represented by notes, and the nation be largely benefited; every holder of paper having in his possession government security, and the nation realising the benefit of the advance at two per cent. per annum.

"To illustrate and simplify my meaning, take the bank of England as an example. Their capital is now £14,000,000, their circulation £19,000,000. The capital is chiefly lent to government at a large per centage; and, on the other hand, they have paid a serious sum for the privilege of issuing notes. Let them raise their capital to £19,000,000, the amount required to square with their circulation; and let them lend the whole amount to the government at two per cent., ceasing to pay any further consideration for the privilege of issue. All would be benefited, and every requisite security would be held by the public."

#### LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

1. *Six Letters to Sir Robert Peel.* By a POLITICAL ECONOMIST.
2. *Intellectual Education identical with Progressive Civilisation.*
3. *Suggestions for Putting an End to all Private Trusts.* By E. COOKE.

4. *Strictures on Dr Marshall's Work on the Atonement.*
5. *"I Believe in one Catholic and Apostolic Church."* By GEORGE BIRD.
6. *Brewster's Chartist and Military Dissertations.*
7. *Objections to Peace Principles Answered.*
8. *A Church, the Christian's Peace Society.* By GEORGE BIRD.
9. *All War Anti-Christian.* By J. BARKER.
10. *Memoirs of the late Rev. J. Williams.* By E. PROUT.
11. *The Advancement of Religion—the Claim of the Times.* By ANDREW REED, D.D.
12. *North of England Magazine,* Nos 12 and 13.
13. *The Great Propitiation.* WARD'S Library of Standard Divinity.
14. *National Distresses and National Sufferings.* By J. C. GALLAWAY.
15. *Interment and Disinterment.* By G. A. WALKER.
16. *Brewster's Chartist and Military Dissertations.*
17. *Union without Uniformity;* two addresses delivered at Craven chapel.

#### Religious Intelligence.

HOLLOWAY.—The Rev. A. J. Morris, late of Manchester, was recognised as pastor of the congregational church, Holloway, on the evening of the 8th of February, when the Rev. J. H. Godwin, of Highbury college, delivered the introductory discourse; the Rev. Caleb Morris, of Fetter lane chapel, asked the questions; the Rev. John Blackburn, of Pentonville, offered the special prayer; and the Rev. Thos Binney, of the Weigh house chapel, addressed the pastor and people. The Rev. Messrs Foster, Lewis, Ford, and Hollis, likewise took parts in the service.

DEAL.—Mr Thomas Brown, from Highbury College, has accepted a call to succeed the Rev. John Vincent, at Deal. Mr Vincent went, above 40 years since, from the same college to Deal; where his steadfast adherence to the truth, and his irreproachable conduct, have gained him universal respect.

LANCASHIRE INDEPENDENT COLLEGE.—We understand that the committee of this important institution have unanimously resolved, "That the expenses of the board of the students in this institution, in all cases where neither the candidate nor his friends are able to provide for them, be derived from other sources than the ordinary funds of the college; and for which sufficient provision is intended to be made." But in explanation of the above resolution the committee deem it right to say that, besides the assistance which particular churches are expected to render to young men recommended by them, steps are about to be taken in order to the formation of an education society in connexion with the college, whose funds they hope will prove sufficient to meet every eligible case brought before them, not otherwise provided for.

The *Patriot* of Monday states that the Rev. Dr Vaughan has accepted the post of president and professor of theology in the new Lancashire independent college, to which he had been unanimously invited by the committee of that institution.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.—This valuable institution has determined to make a special appeal to the Christian public, to enable the Society at this crisis greatly to increase the circulation of Chinese publications among three hundred millions of Pagans, a considerable number of whom can read, and all of whom understand the same language; and of whom it is truly said, by a very competent judge, that religious tracts are the most available means of diffusing Christianity in China.

BROADCHALKE, WILTS.—The Rev. H. A. Atley, of Frome, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Independent church and congregation at Broadchalke, Wilts, to become its pastor, and commenced his pastoral labours on Sunday, Jan. 1, 1843.

WIBSEY, YORKSHIRE.—The church recently formed at the independent chapel, with the congregation, have unanimously invited the devoted home missionary, Rev. John Paul, to become their pastor. Mr P. has, during the last nine years, assiduously and successfully laboured amid the comparatively destitute dense population of Wibsey and its vicinity.

NEW BAPTIST CHAPEL, GRAVESEND.—A very numerous and respectable meeting of the friends of this undertaking was held last Tuesday evening in the Town hall, which was kindly lent by the Mayor, J. Munns, Esq., (who not only favoured the meeting with his company, but also presented a donation of five guineas to the building fund). The large room was crowded to excess, and after the report of the building committee had been read, various resolutions for the furtherance of the object were carried, and the sums collected to the present time were stated by the treasurer to amount to £500. The Rev. Mr Scott, the Wesleyan minister at Gravesend, and other friends addressed the meeting (about 300 of whom took tea together), and the building committee were urged to proceed forthwith to the commencement of the building, the first stone of which, it was hoped, might be laid before the end of March, and the chapel opened for divine worship before the end of July next.

#### MARRIAGES.

- Feb. 3, at the baptist chapel, Rayleigh, Essex, Mr. WILLIAM PAGE, of Hockley, to Miss MARY BLACKBONE, of Rayleigh.
- Feb. 7, at King's Norton church, Worcestershire, the Rev. A. THOMSON, A.M., pastor of the church at Nile street, Glasgow, and late of Spring hill College, to EMMA JANE, eldest daughter of the Rev. T. EAST, of Birmingham.
- Feb. 5, at the independent chapel, Totnes, Mr. WILLIAM HUXHAM, of Dartington, to Miss PORT, daughter of Mr. PORT, of Totnes.
- Feb. 7, at Hope chapel, Reading, HENRY WILLIAM JESSE, of Bedford, third son of the late Mr. John Jessett, of Devizes, Wilts, to MARY, eldest daughter of Mr. METCALFE, of Broad street, Reading.
- Feb. 7, at Dover street chapel, Leicester, Mr. THOMAS LEWIS, lamb's-wool spinner, to Miss ELIZABETH JOHNSON.



At Paddington, EMILY, daughter of W. H. HESLITINE, Esq., of the Stock Exchange, to G. WISTEN, Esq., of Frederick's place.  
Feb. 11, at Brunswick chapel, Bristol, THOMAS G. BUNT, Esq., of Bristol, to LOUISA, daughter of the late G. POPE, Esq., of Cotham, near Bristol.

## DEATHS.

Feb. 9, in London, in his 53rd year, and in very indifferent circumstances, the notorious RICHARD CARLILE. Within the last ten years his opinions had been greatly modified, and in religious matters reversed. He had just completed the fourth number of a new periodical, the *Christian Warrior*.

Jan. 28, aged 14 years, FRANCES, daughter of the Rev. T. SCOTT, general baptist minister, Norwich, and niece of the Rev. J. Peggs, general baptist minister, Ilkestone, Derbyshire.

Feb. 5, at Bedford, in her 53th year, Mrs SARAH NOTTAGE, daughter of the Rev. W. Parry, many years tutor of the academy at Wymondley.

Feb. 7, at Chesham, Mrs. SEXTON, the widow of the late Rev. James Sexton, who was for many years the minister of the church assembling at the general baptist chapel at Ford.

Feb. 11, of consumption, aged 28 years, LEWIS JOHN, eldest and beloved son of John MILLMAN, clothier, Kingswood, near Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire.

Feb. 11, at Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, ELIZABETH, the beloved wife of the Rev. William RICHMOND.

Feb. 4, in his 80th year, after an illness of only two days, at his seat, at Dodington, Admiral Sir C. B. CODRINGTON; having survived his lady only five weeks.

## Trade and Commerce.

## LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, Feb. 10.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the 6th and 7th William IV., cap. 85:

The baptist chapel, Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire. G. Maris, superintendent registrar.

The independent chapel, Wells, Somersetshire. H. Badcocke, superintendent registrar.

The independent chapel, Wickwar, Gloucestershire. E. Holborow, superintendent registrar.

## BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

PARKES, WEST HENRY, Birmingham, hosier.

## BANKRUPTS.

BARRACLOUGH, JOHN, Bradford, Yorkshire, timber merchant, Feb. 22, March 15: solicitor, Mr J. Clegg, Bradford.

BRAIN, AARON, Bedwellty, Monmouthshire, shopkeeper, Feb. 27, March 24: solicitors, Mr G. Hall, New Broadwell court, London, and Messrs Protheroe and Towgood, Newport.

COOPER, JOSEPH, Sutton, near Macclesfield, Cheshire, mercer, Feb. 22, March 22: solicitors, Messrs R. M. and C. Baxter, Lincoln's inn fields, London, and Messrs Sale and Worthington, Manchester.

DICKINSON, NATHANIEL, Manchester, dyer, Feb. 24, March 15: solicitors, Messrs Makinson and Sanders, 3, Elm court, Middle Temple, London, and Messrs Atkinson and Saunders, Manchester.

JOYCE, THOMAS, Bristol, draper, Feb. 27, March 20: solicitors, Messrs Shattock and Cracknell, Bristol.

PEARSON, THOMAS, Liverpool road, Islington, builder, Feb. 22, March 30: solicitors, Messrs Roy and Co., Lothbury.

SHEPHERD, RICHARD, Liverpool, boot and shoe maker, Feb. 24, March 24: solicitors, Messrs Vincent and Sherwood, Temple, London, and Messrs Brabner and Atkinson, Liverpool.

SPIVEY, JOHN, Lepton, Yorkshire, provision dealer, Feb. 25, March 16: solicitor, Mr Heep, Huddersfield.

THORNTON, WILLIAM CARB, Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, machine maker, Feb. 21, March 14: solicitor, Mr Humber, Cleckheaton.

TRIBE, EDWARD, 12, Bedford street, Bedford square, money scrivener, Feb. 25, March 24: solicitor, Mr W. H. Bull, 25, Ely place, Holborn hill.

WHITELAW, JAMES and THOMAS, Lichfield street, Soho, and Store street, Bedford square, carpenters, Feb. 21, March 14: solicitor, Mr Johnston, Chancery lane.

## SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

FRASER, DONALD, late of Inverness, but now of Kessock, innkeeper, Feb. 16, March 16.

MAITLAND, JAMES, sometime of Kilmarnock, but now of Cross-house, shoe manufacturer, Feb. 15, March 16.

M'GRACHY, DUNCAN, Glasgow, manufacturer; chemist, Feb. 14, March 7.

WALKER, ELIZABETH, Glasgow, china merchant, Feb. 15, March 8.

Tuesday, February 14.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:

Baptist chapel, Bury fields, Bourton-on-the-water, Gloucestershire. G. Pearce, superintendent registrar.

St. Thomas, Longhorsley, Northumberland. C. Brumel, superintendent registrar.

Harting chapel, Harting, Sussex. T. Johnson, superintendent registrar.

The Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Haslingden, Lancashire. H. King, superintendent registrar.

## BANKRUPTS.

BROMWELL, JOHN, Northampton, builder, Feb. 21, March 17: solicitors, Mr Thomas Thompson, Northampton, and Mr Wrenmore, 19, Lincoln's inn fields.

BUTTON, DANIEL, 2, Albion place, Battle bridge, pawnbroker, Feb. 21, March 31: solicitors, Messrs Pain and Hatherly, 5, Great Marlborough street.

COOLEY, HENRY, and THOMSON, JAMES, late of Hastings, Sussex, but now of Willesborough, Kent, tea dealers, Feb. 27, March 28: solicitors, Mr John Dangerfield, 68, Chancery lane, London, and Mr Abraham Dangerfield, Ashford, Kent.

FRENDALL, GEORGE, Woodstock street, butcher, Feb. 24, March 15: solicitor, Mr Mirfin, Gray's inn.

GIBSON, JOHN BECK, Northampton, linen draper, Feb. 21, March 17: solicitors, Mr Thomas Thompson, Northampton, and Mr Wrenmore, 19, Lincoln's inn fields, London.

GREATLEY, GEORGE, 47, Hatton garden, jeweler, Feb. 17, March 10: solicitor, Mr J. T. Miller, jun., Abchurch lane, City.

HARVEY, WILLIAM WARD, sen., and WILLIAM WARD, jun., Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, coach makers, March 2, 18: solicitors, Messrs Walter and Pemberton, Symonds inn, London, and Mr George Flower, Mansfield.

M'ESTER, THOMAS, Liverpool, provision merchant, March 1, 28: solicitors, Messrs Knapper and Woolwright, Liverpool, and Mr Richard Baynes Armstrong, 8, Staple inn, London.

MARKLEW, HENRY, Henley-upon-Thames, Oxfordshire, innkeeper, Feb. 27, March 28: solicitors, Messrs Dimmock and Co., Six lane.

NORRINGTON, THOMAS, Writtle, Essex, wheelwright, Feb. 27, March 28: solicitor, Messrs Treherne and Co., Leaden hall street.

SLIMMON, ROBERT, 10, Victoria place, Hoxton (Old Town), linen draper, Feb. 22, March 15: solicitor, Mr Goddard, Wood street, Cheapside.

SMITH, HENRY JAMES, Globe wharf, Surrey canal, Old Kent road, coal merchant, March 2, 28: solicitor, Mr G. J. Jordan, Saint Mary at hill.

## SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BOGLE, MICHAEL, Glasgow, house painter, Feb. 22, March 15.

LAURIE, THOMAS, and Co., Glasgow, china merchants, Feb. 15, March 8.

M'CHESNEY, WILLIAM, Kilmarnock, saddler, Feb. 21, March 22, March 13.

SMITH, FRANCIS, and THOMSON, DAVID, Barrhea 1, printers, Feb. 22, March 23.

SMITH, JOHN, Inverness, founder, Feb. 22, March 5.

## BRITISH FUNDS.

The market has been dull since our last, and prices have remained nearly stationary.

|                         | Wed.    | Thur.   | Fri.    | Sat.    | Mon.    | Tues.   |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 3 per cent. Consols     | 94 1/2  | 94 1/2  | 94 1/2  | 94 1/2  | 94 1/2  | 94 1/2  |
| Ditto for Account       | 94 1/2  | 94 1/2  | 94 1/2  | 94 1/2  | 94 1/2  | 94 1/2  |
| 3 per cent. Reduced     | 95 1/2  | 95 1/2  | 95 1/2  | 95 1/2  | 95 1/2  | 95 1/2  |
| 3 1/2 per cent. Reduced | 102 1/2 | 101 1/2 | 101 1/2 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 |
| New 3 1/2 per cent.     | 101 1/2 | 101 1/2 | 101 1/2 | 101 1/2 | 101 1/2 | 101 1/2 |
| Long Annuities          | 12 1/2  | 12 1/2  | 12 1/2  | 12 1/2  | 12 1/2  | 12 1/2  |
| Bank Stock              | 173     | 173     | 174     | 174     | 174     | 174     |
| India Stock             | 267 1/2 | 268     | 268     | 268     | 268     | 268     |
| Exchequer Bills         | 63pm    | 63pm    | 64pm    | 64pm    | 64pm    | 65pm    |
| India Bonds             | —       | 63pm    | 64pm    | 64pm    | —       | —       |

## RAILWAY SHARES.

|                          |        |                         |        |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| Birmingham and Derby     | 41     | London and Brighton     | 35 1/2 |
| Birmingham & Gloucester  | 48     | London & Croydon Trunk  | —      |
| Blackwall                | 5      | London and Greenwich    | 4 1/2  |
| Bristol and Exeter       | 51     | Ditto New               | —      |
| Cheltenham & Gt. Western | —      | Manchester & Birm.      | —      |
| Eastern Counties         | 8 1/2  | Manchester and Leeds    | 66     |
| Edinburgh and Glasgow    | —      | Midland Counties        | 64     |
| Great North of England   | —      | Ditto Quarter Shares    | —      |
| Great Western            | 91 1/2 | North Midland           | 63     |
| Ditto New                | 65     | Ditto New               | —      |
| Ditto Fifties            | —      | South Eastern and Dover | 22 1/2 |
| London and Birmingham    | 209    | South Western           | 63 1/2 |
| Ditto Quarter Shares     | —      | Ditto New               | —      |

## FOREIGN FUNDS.

|                       |         |                        |        |
|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|--------|
| Austrian              | —       | Mexican                | 30 1/2 |
| Belgian               | 103 1/2 | Peruvian               | 18 1/2 |
| Brazilian             | 76      | Portuguese 5 per cent. | 43     |
| Buenos Ayres          | 23 1/2  | Ditto 3 per cent.      | 25 1/2 |
| Columbian             | 23 1/2  | Russian                | 116    |
| Danish                | 86      | Spanish Active         | 19     |
| Dutch 2 1/2 per cent. | 54 1/2  | Ditto Passive          | 4      |
| Ditto 5 per cent.     | 102 1/2 | Ditto Deferred         | 10 1/2 |

## MARKETS.

GRAIN, MARK LANE, Feb. 13.

The show of wheat was small, and the condition of the samples far from satisfactory. The best dry qualities brought nearly former rates, but other sorts were fully 1s. per qr lower than on Monday last.

The quantity of barley offering proved fully equal to the demand, and there was no improvement in the value of the article. Beans and peas moved off slowly at about previous rates. The few oats on sale sold at the last quotations.

|                |          |                |          |
|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Wheat, Red New | 45 to 50 | Malt, Ordinary | 46 to 52 |
| Fine           | 48 to 52 | Pale           | 54 to 57 |
| White          | 48 to 52 | Peas, Hog      | 26 to 29 |
| Fine           | 52 to 57 | Maple          | 29 to 31 |
| Rye            | 30 to 34 | Boilers        | 30 to 33 |
| Barley         | 23 to 26 | Beans, Ticks   | 26 to 29 |
| Malt           | 26 to 32 |                |          |

|               |          |        |              |
|---------------|----------|--------|--------------|
| Beans, Pigeon | 30 to 32 | Wheat  | 40s. to 56s. |
| Harrow        | 29 to 31 | Barley | 10 0         |
| Oats, Feed    | 16 to 18 | Oats   | 8 0          |
| Fine          | 20 to 22 | Rye    | 11 6         |
| Poland        | 20 to 22 | Beans  | 11 6         |
| Potato        | 19 to 22 | Peas   | 10 6         |

| WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR<br>FEB. 10. |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Wheat                          | 48s. 1d. |
| Barley                         | 27 5     |
| Oats                           | 16 9     |
| Rye                            | 28 2     |
| Beans                          | 27 3     |
| Peas                           | 29 11    |

| AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE<br>SIX WEEKS. |          |
|----------------------------------------|----------|
| Wheat                                  | 48s. 1d. |
| Barley                                 | 26 11    |
| Oats                                   | 17 0     |
| Rye                                    | 29 3     |
| Beans                                  | 27 9     |
| Peas                                   | 30 0     |

## SEEDS.

The transactions in cloverseed were unimportant, and there were more samples offering than could be disposed of. Superior sorts were still held at comparatively high prices, but secondary descriptions were easier to buy. There was some inquiry for rape cakes; linseed cakes were dull.

| Linseed           | per qr       | Clover         | per cwt               |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| English, sowing   | 48s. to 56s. | English, red   | 40s. to 56s.          |
| Baltic, ditto     | —            | Ditto, white   | 42 to 58              |
| Ditto, crushing   | 42 to 45     | Flemish, red   | 42 to 46              |
| Medit. & Odessa   | 45 to 46     | Ditto, white   | 50 to 53              |
| Hempseed, small   | 35 to 38     | New Hamb., red | —                     |
| Large             | 46 to 48     | Ditto, white   | 40 to 60              |
| Canary, new       | 62 to 63     | Old Hamb., red | 40 to 43              |
| Extra             | 64 to 65     | Ditto, white   | —                     |
| Caraway, old      | —            | French, red    | 40 to 48              |
| New               | 42 to 44     | Ditto, white   | 50 to 53              |
| Ryegrass, English | 30 to 42     | Coriander      | 10 to 16              |
| Scotch            | 18 to 40     | Old            | 16 to 20              |
| Mustard           | per bushel   | Rapeseed       | per ton               |
| Brown, new        | 9 to 11      | English, new   | 31 1/2 to 33 1/2      |
| White             | 9 to 10 1/2  | Linseed cakes  | —                     |
| Trefoil           | 18 to 22     | English        | 10 1/2 to 10 1/2 10s. |
| Old               | 12 to 16     | Foreign        | 5 1/2 to 6 1/2 10s.   |
| Tares, new        | 4 to 5       | Rapeseed cakes | 5 1/2 to 6 1/2 10s.   |

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Feb. 13.

In the butter market rather more was doing, but there was no change worth notice in prices. The bacon market was very quiet; prices landed, without change; for shipment, the sellers ask 1s. to 2s. advance. Hams in more request, and the turn higher in price. Lard dull, and 1s. to 2s. per cwt lower.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 13.

The business doing in hops is much on the same scale as to the date of our last report, the quotations continuing firm, and the demand being fair. The only alteration in the rates is to call Weald of Kent a shade dearer. Pockets 1842—East Kent, 101s. to 111s.; Weald, 80s. to 89s.; Sussex, 77s. to 83s.; and Farnham, 140s. to 160s. per cwt. Pockets 1841—60s. to 70s.; choice do, 70s. to 81s. Bags 1841, 60s. to 80s. per cwt. Pockets, old olds, 35s. to 42s. per cwt.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Feb. 13.

The attendance of both London and country buyers was numerous, and there was a much better feeling in the beef trade. A good clearance was effected without difficulty. Not a single head of either beasts or sheep was on sale from abroad, it being now a well ascertained fact that the importers have sustained great losses by their speculative purchases.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

|        |                    |      |                    |
|--------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| Beef   | 3s. 0d. to 4s. 4d. | Veal | 4s. 2d. to 5s. 4d. |
| Mutton | 3 2 to 4 6         | Pork | 3 6 to 4 6         |

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

|        | Beasts. | Sheep. | Calves. | Pigs. |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------|
| Friday | 473     | 1,570  | 150     | 318   |
| Monday | 2,601   | 25,490 | 86      | 333   |

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Feb. 13.

| Per 8lbs. by the carcass.         | Per 4lbs. by the carcass.      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Inferior Beef 2s. 6d. to 2s. 10d. | Inf. Mutton 2s. 4d. to 3s. 0d. |
| Middle do 2 10 to 3 0             | Mid. ditto 3 2 to 3 4          |
| Prime large 3 0 to 3 2            | Prime ditto 3 6 to 3 8         |
| Prime small 3 4 to 3 8            | Veal 4 0 to 5 2                |
| Large Pork 3 0 to 3 10            | Small Pork 4 0 to 4 4          |

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 13.

The arrivals since our last report amount to 2930 tons: viz., from Yorkshire, 1625 tons; Scotland, 750; Devon, 55; Kent and Essex, 155; Jersey, 110; Wisbech, 190.

|              |              |                |              |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| York reds    | 50s. to 60s. | Kent, whites   | 40s. to 50s. |
| Scotch ditto | 50 to 55     | Guernsey ditto | 40 to 45     |
| Devons       | 50 to 55     | Wisbech        | 40 to 45     |

## COTTON.

In the early part of the week the market became more steady than for some time previous, and a considerable business was done, both by the trade and speculators. Since Wednesday, however, it has relaxed into its former state of depression, and the quotations are barely maintained, and the common and middling descriptions of American are 1d. per lb. lower. Speculators have taken 9500 American, and exporters 700 American.

## WOOL.

During the present week the manufacturers have continued to limit their purchases to their immediate requirements. In prices we do not quote any decided alteration.

|                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Down ewes 0s. 10d. to 0s. 10 1/2d. | Hf-bred hogs 1s. 0d. to 1s. 0 1/2d. |
| Down teggs 0 11 to 1 0             | Flannel wool 0 8 1/2 to 1 0         |
| Wethers 0 10 to 0 11               | Blanket wool 0 5 to 0 7 1/2         |

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Feb. 11.—At per load of 36 trusses.

|                  |              |                |               |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Coarse Meadow    | 60s. to 75s. | New Clover Hay | 80s. to 110s. |
| New ditto        | —            | Old ditto      | —             |
| Useful old ditto | 80 to 84     | Oat Straw      | 44 to 46      |
| Fine Upland do   | 85 to 90     | Wheat Straw    | 48 to 50      |

COAL EXCHANGE, Feb. 13.

Braddyl's Hetton's, 20s. 6d.; Haswell's, 19s. 9d.; Hetton's, 20s.; Lambton's, 20s.; Stewart's, 20s.; Caradoc, 20s. Ships arrived this week, 116.

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, FEB. 14.

TEA.—The largest sale brought forward for a long time commenced to-day. It consists of 90,500 packages. 15,100 packages have passed the sale, and of these about 3,500 are actually sold. There was a numerous attendance of buyers, but prices are about as low as they were before the sale, and 1d. per lb. lower than the last public sale. Congou sold at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 10d.; Pekoe, 1s. 2d. to 2s. 0 1/2d.; Pekoe flavour 2s. 9d. to 2s. 4 1/2d. per lb.

COFFEE.—A parcel of good ordinary Brazil was sold at 30s. per cwt. The coffee market wears a most gloomy appearance. The trade are operating with great caution, and forced sales have lowered prices materially.

SUGAR.—The trade have bought a little more freely to-day, and the purchases in the British plantation market amount to 500 hhds and tierces; and 100 hhds Barbadoes were sold by public auction at 66s. to 70s. per cwt. 700 bags Mauritius were sold by auction at 60s. to 68s., low to middling 54s. to 59s. per cwt; 8,000 bags Bengal were sold by public auction at a further decline of 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt. In foreign there is nothing doing, and prices are nominally the same. The refined market was a little more animated; good standard lumps command about 72s. 6d.; brown grocery are quoted 71s. to 71s. 6d. per cwt; bonded crushed are 27s. to 27s. 3d. per cwt.

TALLOW.—900 pipes, 154 hhds South American were sold by auction at lower rates; best St Petersburg yellow candle is 44s. to 44s. 6d. per cwt on the spot; new tallow, to be delivered in the last three months, is 43s. to 43s. 6d. per cwt.

## Advertisements.

POOLCOO'S CHINESE CEMENT.

THE Peculiar and Extraordinary Properties of this Composition make it one of the most useful articles ever presented to the public. It is perfectly impervious to hot or cold water, and will resist the effects of the most intense heat.

So tenacious and firm is it in its hold, that a new fracture is almost certain to take place rather than a severance in the original. Thus its utility surpasses all other Cements for the fixing and mending of China, Glass, Wood, and Ivory, the setting of Stones and Beads in Rings and Trinkets, &c. Sold wholesale and retail, in bottles at 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., and 7s. 6d., by the Proprietor's Sole Agents, BLOFIELD and CO., Cutlers and Razor-makers, 6, Middle row, Holborn; and by their appointment, at the principal Chemists and Perfumers.

BLOFIELD'S London-made TABLE KNIVES, at Blofield and Co.'s, 6, Middle row, Holborn, London.

PATENT PERRYAN PENS.—Prices rendered accessible to all Writers.—JAMES PERRY and Co., Manufacturers to her Majesty and H. R. H. Prince Albert, have introduced a new variety of their Metallic Pens, in boxes containing one gross, &c., in cases containing a quarter of a hundred, and on cards; manufactured under the protection of their Patents, and superior to all the ordinary Steel Pens in general use. J. P. and Co. recommend Bankers, Merchants, Exporters of Metallic Pens, and all large buyers to make trial of these articles.—Pens in Boxes, and on Cards.

DOUBLE PATENT LARGE BARREL PENS, in Boxes. Fine or Medium Points; and on Cards, with Holder.

DOUBLE PATENT SMALL BARREL PENS, in Boxes. Fine or Medium Points; and on Cards, with Holder.

DOUBLE PATENT PENS, No. 2, in Boxes, with Fine, Medium, or Extra Fine Points.

CURVE-CUT PENS, in Boxes, with Fine or Medium Points; and on Cards, with Holder.

Pens in Cases containing a Quarter Hundred, with Holder. Double Patent Pens, No. 2, with Fine or Medium Points.

Raven Black Pens, No. 2, " "



**A YOUNG LADY** of respectability wishes for a Situation as ASSISTANT in a Berlin Wool Shop, or any Light Fancy Business, where she would be treated as one of the family. Respectable references given and required. Address (pre-paid) A. B., *Nonconformist* Office, 4, Crane court, Fleet street, London.

**ACADEMICAL DEGREES.**—Ministers of any denomination, or others properly qualified, may, through the assistance of the Advertiser, obtain a University Degree in Arts or Theology. Address, p. p., stating qualifications in full, to M. D., 15, Tottenham court, New road.

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**SCOTTISH BOARD FOR BIBLE CIRCULATION.**

**A** MEETING held for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Committee appointed to consider the best mode of carrying more fully into effect the important objects of the Institution, the Board, after mature deliberation, unanimously adopted the Report which is subjoined, and which was ordered to be printed and advertised.

#### REPORT.

It will be admitted on all hands, among those possessing accurate information on the subject, that, next to the abolition of the Bible Monopoly in Scotland, the institution of the Scottish Board for Bible Circulation has been the grand and most efficient means of reducing the price of the Holy Scriptures throughout the United Kingdom and the British colonies. The Word of the Lord has accordingly had free course, and been circulated to an extent hitherto unprecedented, and Bible societies have saved many thousands a year, by which they may provide for the circulation of the Bible in foreign languages, on a much larger scale than had otherwise been possible.

The Scottish Board, however, to which we must be allowed to say the churches of Christ, Sabbath schools, and the country at large have been so much indebted, has had to struggle with almost overwhelming difficulties. But, from the first, its principal difficulty has been the want of funds for accomplishing successfully its great object—the multiplication and diffusion of Bibles at the cheapest possible rate, and without profit to any one but for labour actually bestowed. Indeed, the funds with which it has been supplied have been provided chiefly by the Secretary, at great inconvenience to himself.

To remedy the evil in question, the Committee unanimously recommend—

I. That the capital necessary for carrying on the institution with increased efficiency shall be raised in shares of £5 each, on which, however, no profit shall be allowed, except a return of 5 per cent., that no loss may be sustained by individuals seeking merely to promote a universal benefit of the most important kind.

II. That the money thus raised shall be lodged with one of the Banks in name of the Treasurer, who shall be authorised to draw upon it only for the purpose of paying ready money for the stock of Bibles which it may be judged requisite to purchase from time to time.

III. That it having been well ascertained that, by paying ready money for the shares and binding a saving of from 7s. to 10s. per cent. on each quantity purchased may be effected, and as this may be repeated several times in a year with the same capital, the sum thus saved shall be laid aside for paying the interest on the capital, and for returning the shares of individuals when required.

N.B. Those who require the amount of their shares in Bibles may have it at any time, but those requiring it in cash must give six months previous notice.

IV. That the capital raised shall be under the management of a Committee or board of twelve Gentlemen, to be annually chosen by the Shareholders, at a public meeting to be duly advertised for that purpose. Each Shareholder shall be entitled to vote, either personally or by proxy;—one-third of the Committee to retire annually.

V. That the members of the Committee or Board shall be specially instructed to allow no debt in any case to be contracted, nor any Bibles to be issued from their depositories but for ready money. All apprehensions of risk to the Shareholders being thus completely prevented.

VI. That congregations or Sabbath schools, taking a share or shares, shall be represented by their ministers, elders, or deacons, who shall be entitled to vote at all public meetings; or when this may be impracticable, that any representations for improving the institution, which they may forward in writing, shall be faithfully attended to, and that all such congregations or Sabbath schools shall be entitled to a deduction of 10 per cent. in the retail prices, fixed by the Board; while the same advantage, as formerly resolved, will be given to all, whether Shareholders or not, who subscribe towards the purchase of the stereotype plates.

It is believed that if the preceding resolutions be carried into effect, a still further reduction in the price of the Scriptures will follow; as the Board will always be able to go to the cheapest market, and it can have no interest to serve, nor any end whatever to promote, but that of securing Cheap Bible Circulation. An appeal is therefore earnestly, but confidently, made to all the friends of this great cause throughout the empire, to exert themselves for its support. Who that loves the Bible, and can afford to advance a small sum, but should see it his duty to come forward in such a case? What Minister, anxious for the dissemination of God's blessed Word among his own people, especially the young and the poor, but should exert his influence with the wealthier of his friends to make so small a sacrifice, if indeed there be any sacrifice in the case? Will the numerous individuals in Congregations and Presbyteries in Scotland, and connected with Schools, Associations, and Unions in England, who have applauded the exertions of those chiefly concerned in the movement, and so handsomely conveyed to them their votes of thanks, content themselves without giving to their plans and efforts more substantial aid, and thus risk the very existence of an institution, on the annihilation of which a rise in the price of the Scriptures would inevitably follow? In the hope that this appeal will not be made in vain, the Committee have only to add their request that applications to be enrolled among the Shareholders of the Scottish Board for Bible Circulation may immediately be made to the Secretary at Coldstream, or to the present Treasurer, H. D. DICKIE, Esq., No. 2, Newington place, Edinburgh.

WILLIAM WEMYSS, Dep. Com. Gen., Chairman.  
ADAM THOMSON, D.D., Secretary.

Edinburgh, 10th January, 1843.

\* \* The beautiful Pearl Pocket Bible is now in the hands of the binders, and copies will shortly be ready for delivery to those whose orders have been received, and to the public generally. The price to Shareholders, and to those who give a donation of not less than One Pound towards the purchase of the stereotype plates, will be 1s. bound in sheep, plain; 1s. 6d. in embossed roan, gilt edges; and 3s. in best morocco. To all others, and to those who take only single copies, the price will be 2d. additional on each.

All other sorts of Bibles at a great Reduction of Price.

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This institution is empowered by a special Act of Parliament, and is so constituted as to afford the benefits of Life Assurance in their fullest extent to policy holders, and to present greater facilities and accommodation than are usually offered by other Companies. The decided superiority of its plan, and its claim to public preference and support, have been proved, incontestably, by its extraordinary and unprecedented success.

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**BRITISH AND FOREIGN SAILOR'S SOCIETY.**

PRESIDENT—Right Hon. Lord MOUNTSANDFORD,  
TREASURER—Sir JOHN PIRIE, Baronet.

**THE DIRECTORS** are desirous of engaging three or four Agents of superior qualifications and accredited piety, whose whole time shall be devoted to the work of missionaries on the Thames. Also an agent for the port of Quebec, Lower Canada.

Further particulars may be obtained of the Secretary, at the Society's Rooms.

#### AWFUL LOSS OF LIFE.

Is it true that within the last three months above 2,000 souls have found a watery grave? Is it true that above 3,000 British seamen, and 30,000 of all other nations, perish every year in the deep? Is it true that out of every sixteen deaths among seamen, eleven are by wrecks and drowning? These are facts—incontrovertible facts. The sea hath spoken. And in its tones are not merely the voices of the dying, but the wails of widows and of orphans? What is its language? "Don't forget the sailor. If there be any gratitude for the greatest services, any sympathy for the greatest sufferings, any love of country, any desire that souls may be saved, don't forget the sailor!"

There must be sailors. Society could not exist without them. They carry our commerce, our arts, our science, our religion, throughout the world. But what has been done for them? We have charged them with their intellectual and moral degradation, while our duty rather was to have instructed them, and surrounded them by the purest social and religious influence.

The influence of seamen is great. Is it true that the conduct of a British sailor once shut the ports of China against our commerce for a whole month? China is open to Christian Missions, but China is open also to British commerce. And if the sailors' character is not improved, his conduct may seriously affect both our commerce and our Missions. What impression can the missionary make on the heathen, while his own countrymen are seen revelling in every species of vice and crime?

To provide for the instruction and improvement of seamen is the immediate object of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, by the employment of Missionaries and Agents in the various provincial ports of the kingdom, and of chaplains in distant and foreign stations; the establishment of day and Sunday schools for the education of Sailors' children, the circulation of the Scriptures, the furnishing of small libraries for board ship, the advancement of temperance, the opening of savings' banks, &c.

But Funds are wanted. The resources of the Society are wholly inadequate to prosecute with vigour the object in view. We, therefore, appeal to the British nation—to British benevolence. The claim of the sailor is direct—irresistible. To his services the whole nation is indebted. Should not this debt be discharged? The sailor is a man, and he can rise to the dignity of his being. He has a mind, and it is capable of instruction. He has a heart, and the fountain of his feelings may be purified. He has a soul, and it may be saved.

We beg to refer to the "Sailors' Magazine," (published monthly by Ward and Co.), for interesting details of the Society's operations both at home and abroad.

Subscriptions and donations will be gratefully received by the Treasurer, Sir John Pirie, Bart., or by the Secretary.

ROBERT FERGUSON, Secretary.

2, Jeffery square, St Mary Axe, Jan. 31, 1843.

**CITY TEA WAREHOUSE, 2, BUCKLERSBURY, CHEAPSIDE.**—The System adopted at this Establishment is to supply the Public with TEAS and COFFEES at the wholesale prices for Cash.

This arrangement will, it is presumed, be of immense advantage to large consumers, who will be enabled to purchase on the same Terms as the Trade, and thus save a second profit.

| BLACK TEAS.                                              |                     | s. d.              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Common Tea, from 3s.                                     | Good Sound Congou   | from 3 8           |
| A good Family Tea for general use.                       |                     |                    |
| Strong Rough-flavoured ditto                             |                     | 4 0                |
| This Tea we strongly recommend as a sterling Family Tea. |                     |                    |
| Rich Pekoe Souchong, 4s. 4d.                             | The Finest imported | 5 0                |
| GREEN TEAS.                                              |                     | s. d.              |
| Good Common Green 3s. 8d.                                | Hyson kind          | 4 0                |
| Hyson Tea                                                | The Finest Hyson    | 6 0                |
| Fine Young Hyson                                         | 5 0                 | Finest Young Hyson |
| Gunpowder Tea                                            | 6 0                 | Finest Gunpowder   |
|                                                          |                     | 7 0                |

**COFFEE.**  
The alteration in the tariff induces us to pay particular attention to this article, and we quote the following Prices, by which it will be seen that we have made AN IMMENSE REDUCTION.

|                           |                |                   |     |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----|
| Common Coffee             | 9d. to 1s. 0d. | Good useful ditto | 1 2 |
| Good Ceylon (recommended) | 1 4            | Finest ditto      | 1 6 |

This will be found on trial a very excellent Coffee, indeed few Families would require a better.

|                      |         |                          |      |
|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|------|
| Finest Java          | 1s. 8d. | Finest West India Coffee | 1 10 |
| The Finest old Mocha |         |                          | 2 0  |

Much has been said about Mocha, yet few persons have tasted Real Mocha, from the very high price it has hitherto been retailed to the public. The Connoisseur will find this a treat.

The best Cocoa 8d. Soluble Cocoa 9d.

Soluble Chocolate 1s.

MANSELL and Co., 2, Bucklersbury, Cheapside.

All Goods must be paid for on delivery.

#### NATURAL HISTORY.

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